

# The Village Beautiful

*A Local History of*  
UNADILLA, N.Y.  
*The Last 50 Years*





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THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

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# THE VILLAGE Beautiful

*being a*  
*compilation of*  
LOCAL HISTORY OF UNADILLA, N.Y.  
*in*  
THE LAST 50 YEARS

This was a project of the local Rotary Club through a Committee appointed in 1950. The last published historical work of Unadilla was by Francis W. Halsey, *The Pioneers of Unadilla*, published in 1902. It is hoped that the information in this book will bring up to date that earlier record and will prove interesting and instructive to future historians, and will record some of the more important happenings in our beautiful village during the last half century.

*The Rotary Committee*  
BY WALTER L. HUNT, *Chairman*

UNADILLA, N. Y., 1957

# THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

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## Foreword

IN preparation of the history of Unadilla which follows, a great many people have given generously of their time in order to assist in this work. It is a project of the Unadilla Rotary Club, and a great deal of the activity has been done by people of the community. To everyone who has contributed in any way, we extend our sincere thanks for their contribution.

In 1950 and 1951 a Rotary committee was appointed by Dr. Rudolph F. Hust, the President, consisting of Mr. Walter L. Hunt, Chairman, Mr. Arnold Sherman, Mr. Wayne Tyson, Mr. Marvin Teed, and Dr. Harry Sutton. This committee began the process of collecting material and reading in preparation for the actual writing of the history. A project was primarily to bring up to date Francis W. Halsey's book, *The Pioneers of Unadilla*. This had been published in 1902 and, a period of approximately fifty years having elapsed, we decided that there were many events of historical nature that should be recorded and in so far as possible the history brought up to date. The following year, in the administration of Mr. George James, Jr., President, the original committee was re-appointed and to it were added the names of Dr. H. Lee Ward, Mr. George W. Silvernell and Mr. Robert Kinch. This committee has worked for nearly five years and individual members have done considerable research. Unfortunately Dr. Harry Sutton died in the summer of 1952. Dr. Sutton had been one of the charter members of Rotary, had been its active treasurer for many years, and we note with regret the passing of this fine man. His serious illness made it impossible for him to actively participate in our discussions, although he had frequently expressed his interest and desire to cooperate in every possible way. During the period of preparation we have also lost by death Mr. Arnold Sherman and Mr. Marvin Teed, both of whom gave valuable assistance in the work.

Thanks and appreciation should be given specifically to Miss Joanne Scida, Miss Arline Keller, Mrs. W. L. Hunt, Jr., and Miss Barbara Hunt, all of whom have been actively engaged

in the copying of materials from various law books, scrapbooks and other sources and who have done the typing in its preliminary form. They have spent some time in the office of the *Unadilla Times* going through the newspapers and files, and to them we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation.

The local scrapbooks which have been made available to our committee have been invaluable. We particularly have in mind the scrapbooks which the Reverend Mr. Yale Lyon kept from about 1910 until his death, contained in ten large volumes, which proved to be one of the finest sources of information. We had some very fine scrapbook records from Mr. Fred H. Meeker, Mrs. Otto Crooker, Hon. Charles C. Flaesch, Mrs. Frank Davy, and Mr. George Huftalin and others. We also received splendid contributions from Miss Eileen Topliff who loaned several books, Mr. William Barker, deceased, who gave us the historical information concerning the Unadilla Center Church, Mrs. Willis Topliff who assisted in the record of the Woman's Club and also other sources. Mrs. Walter L. Hunt, Sr., Mrs. Adelia Harris, Mrs. E. H. Rider, Mrs. Frederick H. Meeker, Miss Anna Eells, Mrs. H. Lee Ward, have all made splendid contributions to the work. Our appreciation is extended to Dr. Frost whose book, *Life on the Upper Susquehanna, 1783-1860*, was a source of inspiration. Dr. Frost attended one of the early meetings for our committee and gave us some very valuable advice and assistance. We are also indebted to Mr. William L. Flint, Mr. Charles Oles, Mr. Jerome Seacord, Mr. Lynn Earl, Mr. Ralph Morse, Mr. Harold Tyson, and others.

Mrs. Lynn Finch of Franklin, of the Oulehout Historical Society, has made a fine study of the Catskill Turnpike and valuable information has been discovered and exchanged.

A plan of footnotes to each chapter has been adopted as the easiest reference to source information, and while errors and omissions have no doubt occurred for which we are truly sorry, still we have tried to do well our task of THE HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL.

## CHAPTER 1

### The River

**D**URING the past 50 years, many changes have occurred in the beautiful village of Unadilla. Familiar landmarks and faces have passed away and in their places, new developments and new faces have come. Floods and fires have taken their toll, and the following chapters will attempt to recount these major changes in our "Village Beautiful."

One thing, however, remains virtually unchanged. It is the river—one of the natural resources which has had such a profound influence upon the founding and the history of Unadilla and its development—the beautiful Susquehanna River, admired by everyone who drives along our shady main street, arched by ancient elms and maples. But these, too, have changed. Many of the larger and more ancient trees have succumbed to wind, blight, ravages of insects, and disease. It is to be hoped that many citizens residing along the main street will plant new trees to take the place of the ones removed, for they are still one of the outstanding features of the beauty of our lovely village.

"Here also the river, which flows exactly as it did when first our eyes beheld it. How beautiful a thing—a living thing—a river is. Railways may come to make new lines in the landscape. Forests may be cut away from bottom lands and hillsides, and in their places may rise thriving villages and fields of grass and grain, but the river flows on from age to age, the same yesterday, today, and forever.

"The Susquehanna, which here passes the birthplace and childhood home of so many of us, keeps its course today just as it did when the forest crept down to its nearest borders; when the only sounds above it were made by the passing wind, and the cries of birds; when upon its shining surface the sole passing objects were waterfowl and the Indian's bark canoe. Throughout the lifetime of everyone . . . the history of the world itself, from early prehistoric times, this river has been the same



winding, shallow, island-studded stream that gladdens every eye that once has known it and then comes back to look upon its face again." This was the sentiment of Francis W. Halsey, as he delivered an address at the Centennial of St. Matthew's Church on November 1, in the year 1909.<sup>1</sup>

Since the publication of Francis W. Halsey's *Pioneers of Unadilla* in 1902 a number of new sources have been uncovered throwing light on the early history of our village. It is the intent of the authors to examine briefly these new sources before passing on to the developments of the twentieth century.

A work by Alexander C. Flick recounts the adventures of Etienne Brulé who came to Canada with Champlain in 1608 and was one of several youths whom the explorer had encouraged to live with the various friendly tribes, in order to learn their language and gain an understanding of their customs. Champlain apparently sent him to the Carantouans, "who dwelt near the source of the Susquehanna." He was entrusted with a mission to urge this tribe to join in an attack on the Iroquois Indians. He made his way, with guides from the friendly Hurons, down to Lake Ontario, thence along its western shore to the Niagara River, thence overland to the settlement of the Carantouans "to persuade them to join the Hurons." There was some delay in their decision, and when it finally came, it proved too late; Champlain and his dusky allies, becoming tired of waiting, had already departed. It was too late for Brulé to plan to return that season, so, "embarking on the upper Susquehanna, the interpreter spent the winter exploring it to its mouth." <sup>2</sup> This was in 1608.

In the same volume there appears this interesting paragraph concerning the rivers which became the natural routes of travel: "The Delaware and the Susquehanna, flowing southward through Pennsylvania, were water roads to the great regions of the South. Though they followed a winding route, they traversed regions of valuable supplies and scenic attraction. Over these waterways, from remote times, floated the canoes of aboriginal migrants, bearing men eager for adventure and for conquest. . . . To aboriginal man, these lakes and rivers united the region into one cohesive whole, making travel

only a matter of following natural routes—an important factor in a land of great forests.”<sup>3</sup>

William Cooper's experience in founding a settlement in Otsego County in 1785 gives a vivid picture of the primitive condition of the state at this time. Settlements in the region had grown rapidly after 1763. A well-traveled trade route had passed through it, connecting the Mohawk Valley and the headwaters of the Susquehanna, but Indian and Tory warfare between 1774 and 1783 had completely wiped out all signs of civilization. When Cooper came into this region after the Revolution, he found a wilderness “where there existed not an inhabitant, nor any trace of a road; I was alone, three hundred miles from home, without bread, meat, or food of any kind; fire and fishing tackle were my only means of subsistence. I caught trout in the brook and roasted them on the ashes . . . I laid me down to sleep in my watch coat, nothing but the melancholy wilderness around me. In this way I explored the country, formed my plans of future settlements, and meditated upon the spot where a place of trade or a village should afterwards be established.” As late as 1794, he says “there were neither roads nor bridges,” except what the settlers themselves constructed for their own immediate needs.

It is rather difficult to determine an exact date for the formation of a settlement at Unadilla, which meant “the place of meeting.” There are, however, certain references to Unadilla in various historical records. For example “The first farm settled in Unadilla 1770—cottage on the cliff” is shown in an Atlas of Otsego County in what is now Riverside near Myron Kipp's residence, where the road turns to the left coming from Sidney on Route 7 and goes up over the hill to the Monroe and Miller farms.<sup>4</sup>

At the period of the Cherry Valley massacre: “These raids on the exposed settlements produced a popular explosion when, on November 11-12 Cherry Valley was destroyed by 700 Tories and Indians under Captain Brant and Captain Walter Butler. William Harper reported that one soldier and two citizens were wounded, Fort Alden was taken, 11 soldiers and 33 civilians were slain, 67 buildings in the village were burned, all the food supplies were seized, the livestock was driven away, and

18 soldiers and 79 men, women and children were carried off as prisoners. 45 of the latter were 'sent back' on November 13. *A few days later Unadilla was burned and pillaged."*<sup>5</sup>

It is interesting, too, to note that General Clinton's campaign from the Mohawk to Tioga with about 1500 men was very successfully carried out, and in an unusual manner. More than 200 flat-bottomed boats were built, probably at Schenectady, and carried with provisions across the hills from Canajoharie to the head of Otsego Lake, and then by water to the foot of the lake where the troops assembled. The lake was damned so as to raise the water sufficiently to float the boats down to Tioga. There was a delay of more than a month at the foot of the lake, but General Clinton received orders from General Sullivan to start south with "the Third, Fourth, and Fifth New York Regiments, the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment, the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment, three companies of artillery and a detachment of Morgan's Rifle Corps."<sup>6</sup> On August 9, 1779, the boats, loaded with supplies, were floated on the Susquehanna as the dam was cut. This whole movement must have gone by the site of Unadilla. Contrary to expectations, they encountered few Indians, but the account tells that numerous Indian and Tory towns were destroyed. The whole movement was executed with dispatch and without serious difficulty.

Another source says, "The vast expanse of land watered by the Susquehanna-Chemung river system was first opened to white settlement by the Sullivan-Clinton expedition of 1779. Before the Revolution, no white men had ventured to settle, with any hope of safety, west of the Unadilla river. As soon as the Revolution was over, however, settlers, a large part of whom were Revolutionary soldiers, began coming into the region. In general, they came by one of two routes: either westward by the road from Catskill to Wattles' Ferry and thence southwest, onward from Pennsylvania by way of the Susquehanna and its principal tributaries, the Tioughnioga, the Chenango and the Unadilla. William Cooper described this region in 1800 as favorable to the growth of all kinds of fruit, and of potatoes 'equal to the Irish.' Its mutton was 'fat and juicy' and on its bottom lands grew excellent hemp and 'a sur-



prising quantity of wheat.' It remains a rich agricultural region and the finest dairying section in the state." <sup>7</sup>

You will note the mention of Wattles' Ferry, which was again a very important consideration in the establishment of a settlement at Unadilla. Before considering the ferry, mention should be made of the land grants which were made just prior to this period of history. A system of landed aristocracy had already been established: One writer says, "This cursory view of the principal grants makes apparent the solid land basis of the New York aristocracy, the personal interest of officials in grants, and the close connection between the land and Indian problems. William Johnson was continually trying to protect his Indians from greedy speculators, though his will reveals the enormous estate he had acquired for himself. But the fact that the land system was a political football for the governors and aristocrats hurt the best interests of the colony; the large grants encouraged speculation instead of settlement, for most immigrants preferred the small freeholds offered by other colonies to the landlord-tenant relationship or higher prices of New York." <sup>8</sup>

It was in the year 1801 on the 7th day of April that an act was passed by the New York State Legislature, dividing the counties of the state into towns: "And that all that part of the said county of Otsego, bounded northerly by the towns of Butternuts and Otego; east by Otego and the river Susquehanna; southerly by the same and westerly by the Unadilla River, shall be and continue a town by the name of Unadilla." <sup>9</sup>

It was only four days previous to this time, on the 3rd of April, that the state was divided into counties by the same Legislature in session, and Otsego County was set apart, bounded "southerly by the county of Delaware; easterly by the county of Schoharie; northerly by a line beginning at the northwest corner of the county of Schoharie, running thence westerly to the northeast corner of a tract of land formerly granted to John Groesbeck, called Springfield; thence along the north bounds thereof and the same line continued to a line run from the Little Falls in the Mohawk River to the mouth of the creek on which the mills of Richard Cary are erected, where the same creek empties itself into the waters of Lake

Otsego: Then southerly along said line to the southerly bounds of a tract of land formerly granted to Theobald Young; then along the southerly bounds thereof and the southerly bounds of a tract of land formerly granted to Rudolph Staley, to a tract of land formerly granted to William Bayard and others, called the Free Masons patent; thence southerly and westerly along the same to the Unadilla River, and westerly by the said Unadilla river from the place last mentioned, to its junction with the Susquehanna River." On the same day that Unadilla was set up as a town, an act was passed directing that the gaol (jail) of Otsego County be used as the gaol of the county of Chenango until further legislative provision should be made. The act further provided that the treasurer of Chenango County should pay annually on the second Tuesday of May, the sum of \$15.00 rental, "which sum shall be levied and collected of the freeholders and inhabitants of the said county of Chenango." <sup>10</sup>

However, prior to this date, there is this interesting notation: In 1796, Butternuts was erected, "and be it further enacted that all the remainder of the town of Unadilla is hereby erected into a town by the name of UNADILLA. And be it further enacted . . . that the first town meeting be held in the town of Unadilla at the dwelling house of Daniel Bissell." <sup>11</sup>

A little later in our history, we will touch upon the development of the Unadilla School and Academy, but from the records available, it is believed that in 1797 "a town meeting was held 'in the schoolhouse near Daniel Bissell's house.' Daniel Bissell's house was a tavern that stood where Mrs. George Mulford's residence now is. Schoolhouses in those days were patterned from the New England rude log structures. They were probably a single room in which the itinerant schoolmasters kept school during the three winter months. The school teacher was paid by each patron according to the number and advancement of the children instructed. It is indeed to the credit of those pioneer forefathers that they found the necessary shillings to have the children learn to read, write, and figure. The country was new, the land had to be cleared, and coin money was rare. Purchases were made by barter." <sup>12</sup>

No doubt this first Unadilla schoolhouse was similar to the

one just described, for our early inhabitants were all from New England. It was the first public building our straggling village owned. In it were held town meetings, and the infrequent church services which Father Nash conducted, as well as day school. What interesting reading would be a list of pupils that attended the first school but no such list has been found. The next we hear of schools in Unadilla is in the record on file in the high school, a beautifully written record in Curtis Noble's careful hand. We will, however, defer comment on the schools until a later chapter.

In any consideration of the rivers of New York State, and particularly the Susquehanna and its relationship to Unadilla, the ferries and bridges should be considered. Wattles' Ferry on the Susquehanna had been established for several years. In fact, the Legislature of the state in 1797, on the 30th of March, had passed an act to regulate ferries within the state, requiring that licenses be granted "to as many suitable persons as they may think proper." These licenses were to be for a period of one year and it was necessary for any person owning a ferry to apply for a license, at the same time paying \$100, called a recognizance, "to the people of this state, in the sum of one hundred dollars, faithfully to keep and attend such ferry for the keeping of which the said person shall apply, with a sufficient and safe boat . . . as many men to work the same as shall be deemed necessary, together with sufficient implements . . . " for the operation of the ferry. The rates were to be determined as the court of common pleas in the county might see fit. The recognizance was to be placed on file with the county clerk, and every ferryman who offended the regulations was subject to a fine of \$25.00 for each offense.

The Susquehanna River divided the counties of Otsego and Delaware, and there was a special provision that where a ferry was erected or used dividing two counties, the license obtained in either of the counties was sufficient to enable the person "to transport goods, persons, wares, and merchandise to and from either side of said waters." There was also a provision that no licenses should be granted to a person other than the owner of the land through which the highway adjoining the ferry should run, unless the owner should neglect to apply for the license.



Such were the regulations which Nathaniel Wattles complied with in the operation of his Wattles' Ferry.

On the first of April, 1800, a turnpike corporation was established by the state "for improving and making a road from the Town of Salisbury in the state of Connecticut to Wattles' Ferry on the Susquehanna River." Solomon Martin and Sluman Wattles are the names which are of interest to a history of Unadilla. Associated with them were Benjamin Van Orden, G. Schuneman, John Livingston, Henry Martin, John Cortright, and Steven Day. These men were organized in a corporation and association "for the purpose of making a good and sufficient road from the line of the town of Salisbury in the state of Connecticut in the nearest and most direct route as far as circumstances will admit by Ancram furnace in the town of Livingston to the ferry near the store house of John Livingston in said town; and from the landing at Catskill to the ferry commonly called Wattles' Ferry on the Susquehanna River." The name of the road was to be the Susquehanna Turnpike Road "and by that name they shall be capable in law to purchase . . . sell, grant, demise, etc." There was a provision in the act that the amount of real estate which the corporation was authorized to purchase should not exceed \$12,000. This act, as previously recounted, was passed April 1, 1800.

On the 27th of March, in 1801, an act for improving the road from Wattles' Ferry on the Susquehanna to the town of Kingston in the county of Ulster was passed. Christopher Tappen, Frederick Augustus DeZeng, and Joshua Pine, Jr. were appointed commissioners "to lay out, open, and improve the road on the nearest and most direct route practicable from Wattles' Ferry on the Susquehanna River in the county of Delaware to the town of Kingston in the county of Ulster." The road thus laid out, opened and improved was to be declared a public highway and thus recorded by the town clerks through which towns the road was laid. It was unlawful for the commissioners of any towns in the counties of either Delaware or Ulster to alter, or remove the road "unless by so doing the distance will be shortened and the road made better." In order to finance this project and to pay the commissioners, \$2000 was allocated out of the proceeds of the lottery authorized for the

"opening and improving of certain grade roads within this state passed the 28th of March, 1797." The commissioners were authorized to "expend and lay out the sum of \$6510, for the purpose of improving the road from Wattles' Ferry on the west side of the Susquehanna to Catharines Town in Tioga county," since the authority previously referred to covered the improvement of the road from Freehold to Catharines Town. The above mentioned commissioners were further empowered to employ such persons as were necessary and to repair "such parts of the road hereby to be made as they may find impassable for wagons."

It was in this same Legislature that the rivers of the State were enumerated as being navigable, "and all such parts of the Susquehanna River as are contained within this State . . . be and they are hereby declared to be public highways, except so much of the said waters as may be necessary for the owners of the adjoining land to build store-houses and docks for the accommodation of boats, provided that the same shall not obstruct the navigation of the said waters."<sup>13</sup>

This was a period in the State when there was a great development of turnpikes. In 1804, for example, there was a turnpike corporation for making a road from the west line of the town of Salisbury, Connecticut, to the Susquehanna at or near the town of Jericho (now Bainbridge). This corporation was known as the Ulster and Delaware Turnpike Road.<sup>14</sup>

On March 20, 1804, there was a further division of the Susquehanna Turnpike Corporation: The part of the road which was to be laid out on the east side of the Hudson River was to be called the Ancram Turnpike Company. However, the part of the road on the west side of the Hudson was to be continued with 9 directors instead of 13 and with the provision that \$5800 be retained for their use. All costs of making the road, keeping it in repair, or superintending it, the toll houses and gates and everything relating thereto, were to be borne exclusively by the respective corporations.<sup>15</sup>

There was another turnpike, called the Unadilla Turnpike Company, and this was to construct a road from Cuyler's store in the Town of Otego on the west side of the Susquehanna to the Chenango Point, so called, at or near the house of Joshua

Whitney. 2500 shares at \$25 each were authorized and the commissioners appointed for the purpose of receiving subscriptions were: Solomon Martin, Ransom Hunt, William Guthrie, Jr., and Joshua Whitney. The act provided that as soon as 400 shares were subscribed, the said commissioners should have a notice printed in any of the public newspapers printed in the county of Otsego, appointing a time and place in the town of Jericho (Bainbridge) in the county of Chenango for the election of 7 directors. This Turnpike was "to be laid out at a breadth not less than 4 rods, 24 feet whereof shall be bedded in the manner described in and by the act to incorporate the Albany and Delaware Turnpike Company." <sup>16</sup>

Apparently, difficulties had been encountered at the construction of these turnpikes in the hill country, for a provision stated: "that where railings on the sides of hills are made by the company hereby incorporated, it shall not be necessary to make the arch of the turnpike more than 20 feet wide." <sup>17</sup> Toll gates were to be installed at distances of every 10 miles with a gate across the road, to wit: "one gate at the distance of 10 miles from said Cuyler's store and another gate on the bridge across the Unadilla River. At each of which toll gates the full toll exactable . . . may be exacted." <sup>18</sup>

A further paragraph directs that it shall be lawful to reduce the toll on "any carriage or carriages if the fellows of the wheels and tire thereof shall exceed the breadth of 3 inches." <sup>19</sup>

Solomon Martin of Martin Brook and Sluman Wattles of Wattles' Ferry were involved in building the Catskill Turnpike. Originally it had been planned from far off Salisbury, Conn., but later the practical route from Catskill on the Hudson to the ferry on the Susquehanna near Unadilla was adopted.

First a cleared trail for horsemen, then a wagon width for the heavy laden ox cart, with spots where one team could turn out to wait the passing of another—laden with goods and commodities from the Hudson ports and New York metropolis, in exchange for grain, lumber, or hides for barter with the agricultural settlement of the then frontier towns. Next a route for the stage coach which was licensed by the state in 1805. Here was real development, for now instead of the danger and hazard



of the undeveloped trail, was now afforded the comfort and convenience of the weekly stage with covered protection, companionship and scenic beauty, through modern turnpikes. Taverns and Inns sprang along the route and travelers might rest in comfort as the horses were changed; warm meals, lodging and liquid refreshments were available, as convenient as the finest homes or Inns of the growing cities. What comforts and what developments in a few short years. The turnpike was, of course, a toll road comparable, shall we say, to the modern thruways for it had been built by private enterprise, initiative and capital. Stone markers showing elapsed mileage afforded incontestable evidence of the distance passed at the rate, often 5¢ per mile, these same ancient stones standing along the familiar but vastly improved highway today. Our forefathers must have chosen with uncanny accuracy the logical route for the road thus constructed and in many instances the modern ingenuity of advanced engineering and methods of road construction has not improved on these early turnpike routes connecting the early settlements.

With the development of these turnpikes, it was logical that there would be some regular means of transportation, and stages soon began these long hauls. In 1805 when Morgan Lewis, Esq., was Governor, David Bostwick, Stephen Benton, Lemuel Hotchkiss and Terence Donnelly were granted "the exclusive right, for a certain number of years, for a stage or stages between the Catskill landing and Unadilla." The act provided that this exclusive right was for seven years of "erecting, running and driving during the time aforesaid such and so many stage wagons from and to the Catskill landing along the turnpike road to Solomon Martin's in Unadilla as may be sufficient for the purpose of accommodating such a number of passengers as may from time to time apply." It prohibited any other person from establishing stages on this road under penalty of \$50.00. The persons aforementioned were required to furnish and provide covered stages, wagons or sleighs with sufficient horses and the fare was not to exceed 5¢ a mile. These stages were required to proceed at least once a week on a regular schedule, with days appointed and notified for that purpose. If any of the owners of this right neglected to perform the



duties for a term of one month then the right and privilege granted was to be cancelled.<sup>20</sup>

So rest beside the bank of the Susquehanna where the old Ouleout flows in and listen to the hail of the driver of the team laden with the merchandise from Catskill. He had been on the road for over a week. He was tired, hungry and thirsty and the placid beauty of the peaceful river after the down grade from Franklin was a welcome sight. See the Wattles, either Nathaniel or some of his sons pole out the skiff, watch them carefully—put into the bank where the ox team could drive on, cross the river, watch the payment of the toll carefully posted on either bank to prevent arguments in the shrewd Yankee fashion. As the sun sinks in the west, the ox cart and its driver disappear leisurely down the Main St. elm-lined and shady. Past the white picket fences as the driver hails the familiar faces of his friends and acquaintances, toward home with wife and family for rest after a venturous and hazardous trip—Way to the Hudson, nigh on to a 100 miles away. A similar scene is much more beautifully described by Jared Van Wagenen, Jr.<sup>21</sup> in his tale of Wattles' Ferry and the Catskill Turnpike.

This is also the period when bridges were erected across the river. The first covered bridge was apparently erected in 1804. This was destroyed probably by high water and the Susquehanna Bridge Company was incorporated in 1817.<sup>22</sup> A very interesting account of this bridge company and its right to issue money is given later in the book in the reminiscences of Arnold W. Sherman, whose ancestors were members of the Susquehanna Bridge Company. Mr. Sherman has a copper plate which was the property of the company, and on it were engraved four bank notes, in denominations of \$1, \$2, \$5, and \$10. Since the death of Mr. Sherman this plate has been given to our local historical group along with other valuable materials. Photographs of this early bridge are available. In fact, also in the possession of Arnold Sherman was a box of photographic plates which came from the Jayes house and there is one in good condition taken downstream from this very lovely bridge, which remained in use for a number of years; in fact, until it was replaced by a steel bridge in 1893.

The Sidney Bridge Company, composed of Solomon Martin,

Witter Johnson, John Avery, Peter Bradley, and David McMaster, were empowered to make a bridge across the Susquehanna near Avery's Ferry in the Town of Sidney. Solomon Martin and John Avery were the commissioners. The stock of the company was issued in the denominations of \$25 per share and the total stock issued was \$3000. Prohibition was designated that there should be no bridge erected for one mile on either side of this Sidney bridge, and "after 50 years the same should revert to and become the property of the people of this state." A further provision pointed out that there was to be no toll for any persons or person "whatsoever going to or returning from public worship, funerals, gristmill, or physician or midwife."<sup>23</sup>

The tolls which were to be charged are also recorded in one of these early legislative acts. It is of interest to note the tolls that were charged on these early bridges. The printing of those days used an "f" instead of an "s," so that we have the actual word in regulations, "that af foon af faid bridge fhall be completed, . . ." etc.<sup>24</sup>

A gate was to be erected at either end of the bridge and the toll keeper was to demand, receive, and take for the use of the corporation a toll not exceeding the following rates, to wit:

"Every four-wheeled pleasure carriage drawn by 2 horses—25¢; drawn by 4—31¢.

Every two-wheeled pleasure carriage drawn by 1 horse—12½¢; 2 horses—15¢.

Every wagon and 2 horses, 19¢; 4 horses, 25¢.

Each sled and horses, 19¢.

Each oxwagon or cart and 2 oxen, 19¢. Each additional yoke of oxen, 6¢.

Every one-horse cart, 12½¢.

Every one-horse sled, 10¢.

Every ox-drawn conveyance drawn by one yoke of oxen, 19¢.

Each additional yoke thereto, 6¢.

Every foot passenger, 3¢.

Every horse, jack, or mule, 4¢.

Every cow or other meat cattle, 2¢.

Every sheep, hog, or calf, 1¢."

Thus it was that the settlement of Unadilla and the development of transportation along the Susquehanna, across Wattles'

## THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

Ferry and through the turnpikes connecting the ferry with other settlements, were largely responsible for the establishment of the town called Unadilla.

"So many larger towns have since grown up in this part of Eastern Central New York, that it is difficult to understand the pre-eminence Unadilla had above them all in the early years of the nineteenth century," as shown on an old school map. Mr. Frank H. McKinnon of Sidney has a copy of Olney's School Geography, dated in 1823, in which appears a map of New York State, showing the cities and towns then prominent as centers. Between Catskill on the Hudson and Ithaca, between the Mohawk Valley and Binghamton, the only town named on this map is Unadilla. Neither Cooperstown, Sidney, Cobleskill, Oneonta, Stamford, Delhi, Walton, Cortland, Norwich, Elmira, or Owego is shown.

This eminence of Unadilla was due to the Catskill Turnpike, of which Unadilla was the western terminus, Ithaca being the western terminus of the Ithaca-Susquehanna Turnpike, of which Unadilla was the eastern terminus. These turnpikes in those days were the main highways for reaching this part of New York State. Such was the travel over them by stage coaches, freight wagons, Conestoga wagons, prairie schooners and private conveyances, with a hotel every few miles, that the tales told of the transportation along their courses read like fairy tales now.

It was because of Unadilla's prominence in those days that there came to this place men of such ability and personal distinction as Isaac Hayes, Curtis Nobel, Judge Sherman Page, Dr. Adanijah Cone, Col. Samuel North, Major C. D. Fellows, Arnold B. Watson and Frederick A. Sands. It was also due to these conditions that men could build the stately village homes still seen on Main Street—the two stone houses on the central part of Main Street, and Watson and Hayes Houses on the eastern part. The Hayes home, the oldest of all these, built in 1804, was regarded, at the time of its erection, as the finest house west of Catskill.

Conditions radically changed in the second quarter of the nineteenth century—first, with the opening of the Erie Canal, then with the building of the Erie railway, and finally with the



completion of the railway in the Mohawk Valley westward, now the New York Central. No longer were the turnpikes important, except for small local transportations. Stage coaches and freight wagons thereafter made their trips to such points as Deposit on the Erie and Fort Plain on the New York Central.<sup>25</sup>

Technically the records seem to call for the formation of the Susquehanna Turnpike, but common usage has given it the name, "Catskill Turnpike" and this was so recognized by N.Y.S. in 1934.<sup>26</sup> There were 86 milestones set up on the road. Location of the remaining stones is shown in the footnotes and 78, 79, 83, 86 are between Franklin and Unadilla. Stone enclosures have now been put over them by the state and they form interesting memorials of this early route.

It is also interesting to note from information from the Hon. Charles C. Flaesch library, containing some of the Noble Hayes law books to the effect that the Susquehanna Turnpike was in existence for 105 years<sup>27</sup> and at that time 1910 about \$4000 was available to heirs, but had not been claimed, owing to the impossibility of locating any of the heirs. The site of the historic ferry is now marked by a bronze plaque (1947)<sup>28</sup> the gift of Charles C. Flaesch.

The committee is in unanimous agreement that the boulder is not the exact site of Wattles' Ferry. It seems improbable that the ferry would have gone across the island, at least as far down the river below the present bridge. We also recall the Hardy sisters who owned a home on the north bank of the river just below the present bridge. Here a drive went down to the water's edge and we believe the ferry was near this location. The marker with bronze plate fittingly calls attention to Wattles' Ferry but not the exact site to the best of our present knowledge.

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## FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 1

1. Yale Lyon's *Scrapbook*, Vol. 2, page 11. Centennial St. Matthew's Addresses—"The Church and the Pioneers"—paragraphs 3 and 4. Francis Halsey.
2. *The History of the State of New York*, Vol. 1, page 154 in the Chapter, "The White Man's Discoveries," by Alexander C. Flick, State Historian.



## THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

3. *Ibid.*, Vol. 1, page 45, in Chapter II, "First Appearance of Man," by Alexander C. Flick, State Historian.
4. Atlas of Otsego Co., Beers, Ellis & Soule, 1868, page 38. Loaned by Lynn Earl (another copy Wayne Tyson).
5. *The History of the State of New York*, Vol. 4, page 188, in the chapter, "The First Constitution," last paragraph.
6. *Ibid.*, Vol. 4, page 193, in the chapter, "The Levies," second paragraph.
7. *Ibid.*, Vol. 8, page 59, 1st paragraph. "The Susquehanna-Chemung Valleys and the Finger Lakes Region."
8. *Ibid.*, Vol. 3, Chapter 5, page 161, 3rd paragraph.
9. *Laws of the State of New York*, No. 5, 1801, 24th Session, Chapter 163, page 429.
10. *Ibid.*, Chapter 172, page 478.
11. *Ibid.*, Chapter 4, 19th Session, page 640.
12. *Scrapbook* of Charles C. Flaesch, Vol. 2, page 37. "Schools and School House in Unadilla—Unadilla High School Erected in 1893," 1st paragraph.
13. *Laws of the State of New York*, Chapter 33, page 539, 1801.
14. *Ibid.*, 27th Session, 1804, Vol. 3, Ulster and Delaware, Chapter 98, page 113.
15. *Ibid.*, 27th Session, 1804, Vol. 3, Turnpikes, Chapter 26, page 535.
16. *Ibid.*, 29th Session, 1806, Chapter 98, pages 268, 269, and 270, paragraph 2.
17. *Ibid.*
18. *Ibid.*
19. *Ibid.*, 29th Session, 1806, Chapter 98, pages 268, 269, and 270, paragraph 3.
20. *Ibid.*, 28th Session, 1805, Chapter 49, pages 139-141.
21. *The Golden Age of Homespun*, pages 145-146, published 1953, Jared Van Wagenen, Jr.
22. *Laws of the State of New York*, 28th Session, 1817, Chapter 29.
23. *Ibid.*, 30th Session, Chapter 40, page 122.
24. *Ibid.*, 27th Session, 1804, Vol. 3, Chapter 98, page 558, XXI.
25. Yale Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Volume 3, September, 1916 to March, 1919, page 61, "Unadilla Ninety-Four Years Ago."
26. *Ibid.*, Vol. 8, May 15, 1931 to January, 1936; page 222. "Famous Catskill Turnpike May Be East-West Route."

### LOCATION OF MILESTONES

Milestone, No. 1, according to Capt. Mead, is in a dark spot under the bridge at Catskill, where it is difficult to obtain a good picture. Milestone No. 2 is unaccounted for. The other milestones have been located as follows:

- 3-4-7-9. Along the concrete from Catskill to Cairo.
10. In front of the school house in Cairo.
- 11-13-14-15-17-19-20. On the road between Cairo and Durham. A number of these stones were discovered and put back in place when the road between Cairo and Durham was paved with concrete.
22. Opposite the post office at Durham.
- 23-24-25. On the slope to Mt. Pisgah.
28. East side of Mt. Pisgah, near Manorkill.
32. West of Manorkill.
33. In front of the school at Conesville.
34. Between Conesville and Gilboa.
- 39-40. West of Gilboa.
42. Behind wagon house at West Gilboa.
53. On the Stamford-Oneonta road.
- 56-59. On the road from West Harpersfield to West Kortright.
60. Part of the cemetery gate at West Kortright. This stone, in the process of being fitted into its new location, had the words, "60 miles

## THE RIVER

to" hammered away, so that only the word "Catskill" remained visible.  
64-65-68. Between West Kortright and Meredith Square.

69-77. Between Meredith Square and Franklin.

78-79-83-85-86. Between Franklin and Unadilla.

Milestone No. 50 was found by Capt. Mead in use by a farmer as a stepping stone. No. 42 was behind a building on a farm. Then there was the one which used to stand in front of the Presbyterian Church at Meredith Square, but it disappeared a long time ago when the church was repaired.

27. Charles C. Flaesch, *Scrapbook*, Volume 2, page 100. Communication to *Times*.
28. *Ibid.*, page 215. "Site of Historic Ferry Now Marked by Bronze Plaque," *Times*, June 13, 1947.

## CHAPTER 2

### 1900-1910

A PERIOD of 50 years is a relatively short space of time. Did not the psalmist say: "A thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past." <sup>1</sup> Yet, when we consider the first half of the 20th century, certainly as it relates to Unadilla, it is an interesting and important segment of local history. Dividing it into decades may point out some of the important events.

The period of 1900-1910 was the date of the second big fire in Unadilla, the dedication of the Masonic Temple, and the Centennial of Freedom Lodge F & AM No. 179 and also of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. It also reflects the death of several important citizens, such as George D. Raitt, William H. Myers and David Hauford. Let us consider these events as the record now appears.

Unadilla's first big fire was in 1879 and occurred in the lower part of Unadilla. An extra of *Unadilla Times*, which was written by A. J. Barlow and is a part of the file for this chapter, tells of this.

### ORGANIZATION OF FIRE COMPANY <sup>2</sup>

It was immediately following this disastrous fire that fire companies were organized in Unadilla, the first of these in 1884. A volunteer hose company was organized by Mr. S. S. North, through whose generosity a fire house was built on Clifton Street and uniforms were furnished. In 1885 the water works system was built by Mr. S. S. North, and the village was incorporated a second time in 1889, at which time another hose company with a hook and ladder equipment came into existence. This was called the H. Y. Canfield Hose, Hook and Ladder Company. Charter members were: R. K. Teller; T. C. Graves; C. L. Huftalen; John S. Nichols; E. V. Huyck; Fred J. Joyce; H. B. VanDusen; R. S. Balestier; F. G. Bolles; Victore O. Vigneron; J. S. VanDusen; R. S. Balestier; F. G. Bolles;

Victore O. Vigneron; J. S. VanDusen; D. R. Buckley; W. A. Warfield; W. C. Freeman.

It is interesting to note that the constitution and by-laws of these two fire companies are preserved in the Yale Lyon scrap-books. A great many items of interest appear in the records, indicating the interest in the volunteer fire companies. One report tells of the success of these companies in contest as follows:

(approximately 1912)

### CAME HOME VICTORS<sup>3</sup>

TOURNAMENT CONTEST EASILY WON BY LOCAL FIREMEN  
Took Both Races at Oneonta Last Friday—Other Affairs of the Annual Convention.

The annual convention and tournament of the Otsego County Firemen's Association at Oneonta, on Thursday and Friday of last week, never was favored with better weather than obtained on those days, which was responsible for the large crowd, estimated at more than 5,000 persons that spent a day in the gaily decorated city to honor the volunteer firemen.

"Unadilla citizens in attendance felt proud of the North and Canfield companies as they passed in the parade, and the Citizens Band received a deal of praise from strangers who learned for the first time that so small a village as this has such an excellent musical organization. Equally satisfying is the fact that the Canfield running team proved themselves the champion athletes of the country by winning both first prizes in the races.

"After the convention had been called to order Thursday morning, the delegates, those from Unadilla being Charles C. MacGillivray, James H. Shutts, David H. Crandall, Frank Dorman, Frank Alger and James Babcock, were addressed by Mayor Blodgett, whose cordial welcome was replied to by President W. J. Wilber of this village.

"In the racing contests there were only two teams entered; the Canfield Hose, H. & L. Company of Unadilla, and the Steamer company of Cooperstown. The hose race was run over a 275-yard course, laid out on Market street, and the seventeen



Unadilla Sprinters, captained by John W. Vroman, with Ora E. Fisk as coupler, made the run and finished first in the record time of 42 seconds. The rival team took 52.5 seconds to do the trick. First prize, \$50, was stowed away by the winners.

"In the hook and ladder race Unadilla covered 225 yards and sent nimble Ora Fisk up a ladder in 29 seconds, while Cooperstown used up 33.5 seconds in a similar performance. Again first prize, \$50, was tucked away in the pockets of the winner, making \$100 that the Unadilla team found on hand for equal division among the fleet-footed."

All of which leads us now to the disastrous fire of 1904, occurring on Tuesday morning, February 9, at about 3:15. "A destructive conflagration reduced to ruins the row of wooden business blocks situated on the north side of Main Street, between the venerable Dr. Gurdon Huntington house, owned by the Halsey estate, and Hotel Bishop. The buildings destroyed, together with most of their contents, were Hotel Holtham and barn, the Joseph Sweet Block, Brant Block, White's Hall and storehouse, and the H. C. Gregory Block. The fire raged in unabated fury until 6:30 A.M. before it was controlled. The loss was placed at \$35,000, partially covered by insurance.

"The fire was first seen by a young man, Newton Weidman, still residing on Depot Street, Unadilla, employed in keeping the Martin Brook street sewer catch-basin free of ice and debris. The flames were apparently issuing from the rear of either the Sweet Block or Hotel Holtham. As those buildings stood but a few feet apart, an accurate statement cannot be made in which one of the two structures the fire originated. An alarm was immediately sounded from the Canfield fire house on Depot street and was taken up by the North fire bell on Clifton street. The entire fire department responded in remarkably quick time, considering the almost impassable condition of the streets from ice and water resulting from Sunday's flood. Several minutes elapsed after the fire companies arrived before water could be directed into the burning buildings. Bonfires had to be built around the partially submerged and ice-bound hydrants to remove the frost that had collected in the valve threads during the bitter cold weather. Four lines of hose were laid from convenient hydrants.

"When water was secured Hotel Holtham and the Sweet Block were roaring furnaces of flame, making a spectacle awful in its grandeur. The Brant Block was on fire and the flames had communicated to the upper stories of White's Hall. Between the Gregory Block and the old Huntington house was a driveway. Here firemen stationed themselves to make a stand in what seemed at one time an almost useless attempt to check the fire at that point. How well they succeeded is attested by the Huntington house, built prior to 1809, remaining intact, never once being on fire.

"At Hotel Bishop things fared worse. A large force of firemen were making a gallant fight to save the three story building from destruction. The two story wooden addition attached, used as a kitchen on the first floor with sleeping rooms for the help on the second floor, caught from the rear. Believing that it would be impossible to save the Hotel or to prevent the flames from communicating to other nearby buildings, a telephone message was sent to Oneonta at about four o'clock for assistance. In response, the Oneonta department was called out and thirty picked men and a steamer were dispatched to Unadilla by special train. The distance of eighteen miles was made in nineteen minutes. The Oneonta firemen laid a line of hose from a hydrant near the D & H station, and it was probably owing to their timely arrival and aid that the upright part of Hotel Bishop was not more badly damaged. The thick walls of the building proved an effective barrier. Several times the interior of the building was on fire, the flames consuming the window casings and eating their way by means of the studding to the attic. A vigilant bucket brigade and the house hose subdued these outbreaks as soon as they occurred. The kitchen annex was practically a total loss. Great damage was done by water to the dining room and several upper rooms. The property was insured for \$3,500.

"White's Hall, one of the buildings, was of three stories. The east side of the first floor was occupied by S. D. Haight as a hardware store, with storerooms on the second floor. The Masonic organization, Freedom Lodge No. 324 F. & A.M. Unadilla Chapter, No. 178 R.A.M. and Freedom Chapter, O.E.S., used the entire third floor for lodge room purposes.

Mr. Haight removed a quantity of gasoline and powder from his storehouse, but otherwise his loss was total. He carried \$5,000 insurance on his stock. The Masonic bodies lost practically everything, including lodge furnishings, a highly prized collection of Past Masters' pictures which adorned the walls, the costly vestments of the Chapter and many articles of historical interest to Masons. The "Three great lights," seals of the three organizations and officers' jewels were saved by Past Master George D. Raitt, who forced an entrance after the building was on fire. A second attempt to enter the rooms proved a failure, owing to the stifling smoke. The Lodge and Chapter carried an insurance of \$900. The building was insured by \$1500 by the owners, Mrs. W. L. Makley and F. L. Cone.

"The H. C. Gregory block, the last building to fall a prey to the flames, was a two story structure. The ground floor was occupied as a grocery by L. H. Hildreth; the second floor by the wife and daughter of the late H. C. Gregory. The firemen kept this building so well soaked with water that it burned slowly. A part of Mr. Hildreth's stock was removed and some of the household effects of the Gregory family. Mr. Hildreth carried insurance to the amount of \$800. The Gregorys were insured for \$1,500.

"The excellent work of the firemen in keeping the fire confined to the area burned is deserving of unstinted praise. The cold was intense and they suffered greatly, fighting on with superhuman strength born of desperation. The buildings destroyed had long been regarded as tinder-boxes and fire-traps of the worst order. The wonder is they endured so long."

This is the partial account of the second disastrous fire, as written by W. D. Hanford in an illustrated souvenir published soon after the second fire. It was found in Yale Lyon's second volume of scrapbooks.

## INCORPORATION OF VILLAGE

Since mention has been made of the incorporation of the village, as set apart from the township in 1889, it may be of interest to record the village law-givers. For over half a century the village has had but one attorney: The Honorable C. C. Flaesch. Thirteen presidents preceded the present office



## 1900-1910

of mayor, of which the second Mayor John M. Hopkins, still survives. The complete list of village officers since 1889 is as follows: <sup>4</sup>

1889-1896: President, D. P. Loomis; trustees, Wesley Mulford, John Wiesmer, H. C. Gregory, Elisha Huyck.

1896-1898: President, Eugene Carr; trustees, Wesley Mulford, John Fisk, S. H. Chapin.

1898-1902: President, Tracy H. Morse; trustees, Wesley Mulford, Spencer Eells.

1902-1903: President, Eugene Carr; trustees, Wesley Mulford, Spencer Eells.

1903-1904: President, Dr. A. J. Butler; trustees, Wesley Mulford, Spencer Eells.

1904-1910: President, S. H. Chapin; trustees, M. P. Sweet, A. D. Oles, P. H. Carney, George D. Raitt.

1910-1914: President, Jerome S. Seacord; trustees, Samuel Hodges, George Whitaker, Marshall Robinson, A. E. Seaman. (Main Street was paved during this administration.)

1914-1920: President, Cornie C. Moore; trustees, George N. Griswold, C. O. Potter, William Dickson, J. W. Vroman.

1920-1921: President, Fred E. Tabor; trustees, William Dickson, William Gorman.

1921-1923: President, Dr. Samuel J. White; trustees, Charles Emerson, Dr. F. H. Smith, C. E. DeForest.

1923-1924: President, Fred E. Tabor; trustees, Dr. F. H. Smith, Fred Fowler.

1924-1925: President, H. D. Hanford; trustees, Dr. F. H. Smith, J. J. Carmichael, Robert Kochendorfer.

1925-1928: President, Clark E. DeForest; trustees, John M. Hopkins, Riley Himelberger, W. C. Boyd, Howard Smith.

1928-1933: Mayor, Clark E. DeForest; trustees, John M. Hopkins, Howard Smith.

1933-present: Mayor, John M. Hopkins; trustees, V. N. Sherman, Ira Moors, Edwin R. Chamberlin. 1933-1937: trustees, Lynn Earl, Howard Smith.

Village Clerks: W. D. Edson, 1889-1891; Leland M. Cowles, 1891-1904; James H. Benedict, 1904-1908; Willis J. Topliff, 1908 to date of his death, May 23, 1953, clerk for eight presidents and two mayors.

Village Treasurers: W. H. Heslop, W. H. Crooker, Edward S. Griffin, Alfred D. Pixley, Frank M. Tyson, James G. Vought, Willis J. Topliff, and Nap Topliff.



## MASONIC LODGE

The Masonic fraternity celebrated the laying of the cornerstone of their temple in June, 1904. The historical record appeared in the *Unadilla Times*, presumably written by W. D. Hanford, and is also in our files.

## THE MASONIC CENTENNIAL

Four Hundred Masons Meet at the Temple of Freedom Lodge to Participate in Ceremonies.

The Centennial of the establishment of Freedom Lodge No. 179 F. & A.M. organized in March, 1809, is now of itself a matter of historical record, and in connection with the event it can be said in all truthfulness that the elaborate ceremonies devised and carried out by the members of Freedom Lodge, No. 324 at the Masonic Temple on Friday evening of last week in honor of their early ancestors, were witnessed and participated in by the largest outpouring of the Sons of Light in the local history of the order, save in one exceptional instance—the laying of the cornerstone of the Temple in June, 1904.

“The centennial exercises were opened by an invocation by the Rev. E. W. Greene, rector of St. Matthew’s church, after which the program published last week was followed out in its entirety. Wor. Bro. Tracy H. Morse in presenting the original charter of Freedom Lodge, No. 179, to the present lodge, explained that by the widow of the late Frank G. Bolles after the latter’s death, and Wor. Bro. H. D. Hanford and George D. Raitt, the latter by note because of illness, stated that their custodian ship of the old record books came about in a most fortunate manner. Together with a mass of old books, paper, etc., they had been in the rear of the Bolles home, and were seen and rescued by Mr. Harold Sands, now of Brooklyn, who intended to use them as scrapbooks. An examination revealed to him their nature and he gave one each to the brothers above named. The old charter has been framed and will henceforth hang in the lodge room, and with the restoration of the old record books the Masonic order in Unadilla now has an unbroken history of the craft from 1809 to the present moment.

"In his speech of acceptance of these relics on behalf of the lodge, W. Bro. Charles C. Flaesch spoke at length on the character and citizenship of the men who composed the first lodge, and drew many useful and instructive lessons for later day Masons to follow and profit by.

"Wor. George B. Fellows, the oldest surviving Past Master of Freedom Lodge was unable to attend the Centennial. The following address, compiled by him for the occasion, will be found to contain the salient points of the history of Freemasonry since its inception in Unadilla:

" 'The Masonic records show that from the foundation of the first lodge in 1809-1834, when superstition and political ambition caused it to suspend its labors, there had been over 80 sturdy pioneers made members of this lodge.

" 'The first officers of the lodge, who were also charter members, were: Stephen Benton, W. M.; Abijah H. Beach, S. W.; Sherman Page, J. W.; Uriah Hanford, Treas.; Abel Osborn, Sec.; Sampson Crooker, S. D.; Leonard Morey, J. D.; Reuben Bennett, S. S.; Nathan Smith, J. W.; and Asher Scott, Tyler.

" 'Stephen Bennett was re-elected W. Master, Abijah H. Beach succeeded him and was re-elected. Uriah H. Anford, Abel Morse, Isaac Hayes, Henry A. Beach, Henry Ogden, Arnold B. Watson, Turner McCall and A. D. Williams in that order. Arnold B. Watson, Master, as W. Master at the last communication of the lodge (Freedom No. 179) held in 1834. The membership of this lodge was composed of notable men and worthy of more than a passing notice, and a study of their characters would be an interesting and instructive one did time permit and we, their descendants, are fortunate and ought to give thanks that they were our progenitors.

" 'This was the beginning, but not the end of Masonry in Unadilla. Tradition informs us that those who saw the first estate in Masonry from 1809 to 1834, although reviled and persecuted by the mistaken Anti-Masonic excitement, kept the sublime principles of Masonry cherished in their hearts all through the suspension of inner-regnum, ready when an opportunity offered to resume their obligations as members of the fraternity. This opportunity was offered in 1854 and then those of the old guard still living and remembering the former things,

moved by the spirit of Masonry, organized a new or a continuation of the old lodge with the same name but a new number, as circumstances required, showing that the members of the first lodge did not regard it as defunct, but a living organization and still a part and parcel of the new one to all intent and purposes.

"The first officers of Freedom Lodge, No. 324 were: A. B. Watson, W. M.; R. G. Mead, S. W.; A. D. Williams, J. W.; Joel Bragg, Treas.; Thomas Noble, Sec'y; Martin B. Luther, S. D.; O. F. W. Crane, J. D.; Joshua Houghtailing, Tyler, who were also charter members.

"There have been thirty-four W. Masters from 1854 to the present time, quite a number holding the office more than one year giving evidence of their efficiency or being worthy of the confidence of the brethren.' " 5

Another proof of the antiquity of Unadilla is found in the Masonic history. An interesting book of *Free Masons Monitor* originally belonging to Enos Blackman has been made available by his great, great granddaughter Miss Eileen Topliff. The book itself was written by Thomas Smith Webb past master of Temple Lodge, Albany, New York published by Cushing and Appleton, at the sign of the Bible Salem, and by Henry Cushing at the Bible and Anchor, Providence, Joshua Cushing Printer No. 79, State St. Boston 1808. Book 2 Chapter VIII is a sketch of the History of Free Masonry in America and the Grand Lodge of New York. Recalling that "the Grand Lodge of New York was constituted by a warrant from the Duke of Athol dated London, 5th September 1781.

"In conformity to the example which had been set by the Grand Lodge of several states after the revolutionary contest on the 5th of September 1787 the masters and wardens of the several lodges within the state, having been duly notified, assembled in the city of New York, and the late provincial Grand Lodge, and elected and installed their grand officers."

There follows a list of 101 subordinate lodges including the following.<sup>6</sup>

St. John's, New York  
Union, Albany  
Masters, Albany

St. George, Schenectady  
St. Patricks, Johnstown  
Harmony, Catskill



Otsego, Cooperstown  
*Western Star, Unadilla*  
 [italics ours]

Adoniram, Franklin  
 Morton, Walton  
 United Brethren, Caznovia

This record would seem to indicate clearly the organization of a Masonic Lodge in Unadilla by 1787, a fact which is here introduced and which antedates the 1809 record indicated in other paragraphs. No other record of Western Star Lodge F. & A.M. is available. We do not know the names of the master or wardens, nor do we have the list of members, but Unadilla must have been an established community prior to this date when its Masonic Lodge was listed as one of the subordinate lodges of the Grand Lodge of New York.

The centennial of St. Matthew's Church occurred on November 1, 1909. An address was given by the famous historian, Francis W. Halsey. A portion of it has been referred to in the chapter of our volume entitled "The River." Parts of the remainder of the address are of interest in this historical report and are as follows:

#### The Church and the Pioneers

"I cannot adequately express to you the sentiments which this gathering inspires. You who still live here, and who have never departed from the paternal doorways and the paternal sidewalks, perhaps will not be able to understand its depths.

"Out of the very soil on which one is reared, spring forces that fix deep marks on one's nature. A man is not alone a native of his birthplace; in some very considerable degree, he is a product of his birthplace. No fact is more familiar in biography, whether of great or small lives; and for example the life of Dickens, the fondness of Dickens for ships and salt water was lifelong, because, like his own Copperfield, he had been 'born within the sea and its eternal evermore.'

"This influence springs not from climate altogether, nor from soil or landscape. More than to any of these influences it is due to inhabitants, older and wiser than he, by whom his tendencies were directed, if not actually shaped. Such as these are the unacknowledged teachers of us all. They still exert their sway long after they have ceased to speak and toil.



This fact is eminently true of the men who founded St. Matthew's Church a century ago this day.

"But, if we are to consider here the beginnings of white man's civilization in the Susquehanna valley, the year in which this church was founded belongs to a late, rather than an early, period. White men are known to have entered this valley, almost two hundred years before the founding of this church. They came as explorers and fur traders, and then as missionaries. The activities of these men, (who of course came for temporary sojourns only) extended over somewhat more than a century. The first white settlers then followed—at Cherry Valley in 1740, on Unadilla soil (the township, not the village) in 1770. Several small but thriving frontier communities had been well established before the Revolution began, but in the ensuing conflict they were utterly destroyed. The upper Susquehanna became at last a land of complete desolation. Few men and women among those first pioneers ever returned to their Susquehanna homes.

"The second band of invaders, those from whom so many of us derive our inheritances, were men of another race, and they came from other homes. They were New Englanders, born and bred, whereas the first invaders were Scotch-Irish, natives for the most part of the British Isles.

"This fact is of great importance to our Church. Had the first pioneers ever lived to come back, they never would have founded here any Episcopal house of worship, for the Scotch-Irish were Presbyterians of the sternest type.

"New England, it is true, was dominated in those years, and for many years afterward, by the faith of Calvin. But in the community planted on the soil of Unadilla village, in the closing years of the Eighteenth century and the first years of the Nineteenth, were several strong and valiant souls to whom, in their early homes in western Massachusetts and Connecticut, the Episcopal form of worship had become familiar. The entire community was not similarly imbued, however; other families were Presbyterians; but the leading men among the pioneers were inclined to the Episcopal faith and by them it was determined that the first church planted here

should be of that faith. It remained for many years the sole house of worship in the village.

"Besides the Episcopal leanings which these men had acquired in their earlier home, they had been further directed in their faith by the labors in this community of that heroic and saintly missionary priest, whose tombstone still stands near that of Fenimore Cooper in the churchyard at Cooperstown, where it had long been a place of pious pilgrimage to men and women from this and other Otsego villages—Father Daniel Nash. Of Father Nash it is said by one of his contemporaries in missionary work that he did more than any other man of his time to extend the Episcopal faith in the United States.

"Oldest among them as a resident was General Martin. He had already been here about twenty years, his home near the site of the present residence of Martin P. Sweet. It is interesting to recall that this site later became part of a farm owned by the rector of the church, Norman H. Adams, whose term in the rectorship was by far the longest of all the rectors of St. Matthew's. Here Mr. Adams built a home, the very house now occupied by Mr. Sweet.

"For a long term of years—about thirty—this house had for its lawn and yard the entire square bounded by Main, Adams, Martin Brook, and Butternut Streets. Over the gateway a Gothic arch. Summer houses adorned the yard. Trees of foreign growth and had been planted there, some of which remain to this day. So spacious and attractive were these grounds that Sunday school picnics were often held in them, while inside the house was reared the Sunday school Christmas tree. The pleasures thus afforded are among the delightful recollections of my boyhood.

"The church having been legally organized in 1809, a plot of ground was purchased early in the next year and a contract entered into with Sampson Crooker to erect an edifice of worship. Work on the building was soon begun but for want of adequate means the frame only was completed. More than two years elapsed before, from Trinity Church of New York, the needed funds were obtained, so that the frame could be finally enclosed and the interior finished. The consecration

of the church took place in 1814, nearly five years after the incorporation, the rector being the Rev. Russell Wheeler.

"Mr. Wheeler remained five years, when he was succeeded by the Rev. James Keeler, who remained only one year. The Rev. Marcus A. Perry was the next rector. He also remained five years and then was succeeded by the Rev. Norman H. Adams, whose ministry, extending over nearly thirty years (1825-1853), left an enduring mark upon the community. Mr. Adams was followed by the Rev. Samuel H. Norton, whose term was five years. Then came in succession two rectors who alone of all that had served the church before Mr. Greene came, now survive—the Rev. Edward F. Baker, who remained nearly four years, and the Rev. James H. Kidder, who was here five years.

"These records bring us down to the year 1869, when the Rev. Michael Scofield became rector. He was followed by the Rev. Charles Pelletreau, the Rev. Daniel Loveridge and the Rev. Dr. R. N. Parke.

"The church edifice, as consecrated in 1814, formed only a small part of the structure that now stands here. Indeed, scarcely more than the frame of that early building survives in the present edifice. Extensive alterations and enlargements were made in 1845, Mr. William J. Thompson being the builder in charge. Another addition was made in 1855, Mr. Thompson again being the builder. Of later date was the building of the rectory; this belongs to the year 1866. The site was a gift from Rufus G. Mead, the cost of the building being partly defrayed from funds derived from the sale of a farm lying on the road to Sidney and later known as the Copley farm. This farm had been a gift to the church in 1813 from Goldsborough Banyar of Albany who had long been the chief owner of the Wallace patent.

"If we are to judge acts of public beneficence with due regard for proportions the founders and early supporters of this church gave out of their store with scarcely less generosity of purpose, than the owners of great fortunes who, in our time, have founded and endowed colleges and libraries—the Cornells, the Stanfords, the Rockefellers, the Carnegies. Upon the lives of hundreds of men and women, who here have received their



first nourishment from that fountain of spiritual and moral culture, which in all ages has been the inspiration and savior of society, these benefactors, with modest pretensions to property, have exerted an influence that must last so long as we live and which, if we believe all we have been taught, must last forevermore.

“My own experience is in no essential degree unlike that of many others. A long absence has scarcely made any difference, so important are the influences that surround one’s early life. In another six months, it will be exactly 40 years since I, a schoolboy from the old Academy, went forth to college halls, and thence to a life of self-support in a larger world. Looking back upon it from this far distance, it is to the influences proceeding from this church that I must attribute most of all that has continued to be in any way spiritual and devotional in my life. Here were inspired and nourished sentiments of conduct, standards of behavior, a sense of seemly things and of well-ordered living, that have been potent and inspiring in every path since trodden. All this came, not alone from the services as conducted by the men to whom my boyhood recollections go back—Mr. Baker, Mr. Kidder, Mr. Scofield—but, in quite equal degree, from what was taught in the Sunday school, where my teacher was that gracious woman, known then or later, to nearly all of you, for she died only a few years ago—Susan Watson, who afterwards became the wife of Frederick T. Sherman.

“At her home in Brooklyn in quite recent years, I more than once have had the honor of saying to Mrs. Sherman that she was responsible for my moral character—words spoken in jest, but having a very substantial basis of fact. Susan Watson Sherman—these walls seem almost to speak her name! From early child (she must have been baptized here) down to the last year of her life, her devotion to this place was continuous and always fine. I am sure that no church, to which she afterwards turned her footsteps, has had the same meaning for her—neither the beautiful structure where she worshipped near her Brooklyn home, nor those ancient shrines, picturesque abbeys and stupendous cathedrals of the old world with which she had been familiar.



"It was a singular circumstance that the lands we have known as the 'Church Farm' in times long anterior to the coming of white men should have been chosen as the site of what I am disposed to call the first religious structure ever reared in this part of the Susquehanna valley. Older persons in this audience will remember a heap of common field stones, which, until recent times, say twenty or thirty years ago, stood on this farm just inside the fence that skirts the highway on the left as you drive towards Sidney. This cairn became familiar to me in boyhood on many a joyous tramp with other boys to meet the circus that was coming up to Unadilla from Bainbridge. In size, the cairn was perhaps eight feet wide and four feet high. Its disappearance was due to a curious belief that treasure had been buried beneath it. In a search for treasure, the stones were dispersed. We should all deplore this act of unconscious irreverence.

"This cairn had been reared by the Indians. Similar piles of stone have been found elsewhere in New York State and are believed to have been associated with the Indians' belief in the existence of a Supreme Being. William Frey, who survived to great age in Sidney, and who as a boy lived on the neighboring Colonel Hough farm, once told me that he well remembered a visit to this cairn made by an Indian for the purpose of adding to it a single stone. Asked why he did this, the Indian replied, that if the act was not performed once a year by some member of his tribe, they would be in danger of extinction.

"It, therefore, was not the white man who, in this valley, first reared a structure devoted to religion, but the Indian. In many other ways, this once powerful race had made history in New York State long before the white man came. They were the original Susquehanna pioneers, their former home having been the St. Lawrence, and its valley. Of all American Indians, the Iroquois were the greatest. They have rightly been called the Romans among red men. They were statesmen as well as warriors, and when they formed their famous League they accomplished a work in statecraft the laudation of which can scarcely go too far. Those unlettered savages formed a federation of states. Generations before Hamilton and Jay,

Madison and Washington, they gave expression on American soil to the federal idea.

"In them we see what were the force and efficiency of organized genius for war when it was made to act in a land that had been built for empires. It is beyond question that a great source of their strength lay in the lands they lived upon. Between the Atlantic and the Mississippi, no lands were so high as theirs. Here were the headwaters of great rivers, the Hudson, St. Lawrence, Susquehanna, Ohio—marking the highways along which the Indians descended to the conquest of inferior races, far to the South, far to the West. Long before the white man had made these lands his own, before he had built his highways, had reared his towns and cities, and had planted here in New York a population of 8,000,000 souls—ages before this era of white man, this dusky, warrior race that never numbered more than 25,000 souls—about one-half of the present population of Otsego County—had already marked out this territory as a land of empires.

"To these unlettered men of the forest a debt of obligation exists from the white man that is seldom recognized, and can never be fully discharged. By them great services were rendered to Anglo-Saxon civilization on this continent. The savage men who did such awful slaughter among the people of this valley, a generation afterward in that older war we call the French War, arrayed themselves on the side of the beneficent and enduring forces in human affairs and these were then in sore peril. That older conflict of the eighteenth century in which the first blow was struck on Pennsylvania soil—on that field on her southern borders called Great Meadows, where George Washington won his spurs as a soldier—a field distant one hundred miles westward from that other and far greater Pennsylvania battlefield, where was fought out one of the decisive conflicts in world history, where 150,000 men engaged in mortal strife to determine that 'government of the people, by the people, for the people, should not perish from the earth'—that older conflict was a conflict between masterful, opposing forces for supremacy in the new world.

"When Wolfe died at Quebec, destiny and human progress had decreed that the future civilization of North America

should be Anglo-Saxon and not Latin. And it was the fathers of these men who did massacre in Cherry Valley and laid desolate every settlement on the Susquehanna, who helped conflict, if indeed they did not definitely turn the scale for that side. Here in this edifice of worship distant from that sacred monument in Cherry Valley reared above the bones of those who fell in the massacre, let us give the Iroquois all the honor that is rightly theirs.

"Need I remind this audience, what that victory over France has meant for your land and mine? Need I say that in place of Roman law it has given us all that we owe to Magna Charta, to the Bill of Rights, and to trial by jury; that instead of an Inquisition we have had religious liberty; instead of centralization of power and tyranny in office, the meeting; instead of an ignorant populace such as darkens every hamlet in Spain, the little red schoolhouse; instead of a Louis XV, a Thomas Jefferson; instead of a Duke of Alva, that finest type of an American citizen, that man born in a cabin, scarcely better than the cabin of an American Indian, and yet who rose to be the second savior of his country, Abraham Lincoln!

"In the war that followed the war with France—that is, in the Revolution—the Indians became at last the active allies of England. Then ensued what we know as the Border Wars, but the main conflict had been more than three years in progress when massacre overwhelmed the settlement at Cherry Valley and obliterated every vestige of civilized life along the upper Susquehanna. The centre of conflict had passed away from New England; it had passed away from New York; New Jersey had been saved, and Pennsylvania saved. Burgoyne had surrendered at Saratoga, and George III, in a hopeless effort to save something from the impending ruin of his cause, had transferred the conflict to the South, where the remainder of it was to be fought out—in Virginia, Georgia, and South Carolina.

"Thus on the frontier of New York, including the upper Susquehanna Valley, a new kind of warfare arose. This was a warfare of arson, massacre and ambush fighting, of which Indians were masters, and in which they had constant aid from the Tories. Those Border conflicts were the essential part of the struggle that had long been going on for the Hudson



Valley. They had been directly inspired from London, and were actively directed by the British in New York and Canada. It was believed that forces might thus be drawn away from the Hudson valley and that men pouring down from Canada by way of Oswego and the Mohawk, by way of Niagara and the Susquehanna might force their way to the Hudson valley. Indeed, at one time these conflicts had gone so far that Governor Clinton expressed grave fears lest the Hudson should become the frontier of the State. In those Border conflicts which extended over nearly five years, this valley was completely depopulated. Indeed, the desolation was so great that, with the blackened logs of burned houses and barns and the growth of weeds and briars, the settlements had acquired a more forbidding aspect than the country had in its native state before the white man ever entered it.

"When the war was over, the history of the Indian in this valley came to an end. They indeed had losses, inflicted by the white men. The Indians lost practically everything. Their homes were destroyed, their altars obliterated. Among the streams and forests where for hundreds of years had dwelt their fathers were never again to burn their council fires. England virtually abandoned them to the mercy of the men whom they had fought as rebels, but who were now victorious patriots, the complete masters of an imperial domain. Nothing for them was exacted in the treaty of peace. Not even their names were mentioned. It was a pitiful state, for men who had given the world what they had, for a cause, not their own, the cause of an ally across the great waters with whom they were keeping an ancient 'covenant chain.'

"Out of history were to pass the Iroquois—out of history was to pass their League. In the more than 100 years that have since elapsed, although they still remain as numerous as they ever were, they have made no history on this continent. A vast territory has been peopled with more than 80,000,000 of men. Stores of wealth, unknown to former times, have been wrested from the soil, and from treasure chambers beneath the soil; but the Iroquois have silently lived on, stolid, unimpassioned, unimpressed witnesses of these vast accomplishments by a race of pale faces from across the seas. That Oneida warrior chief-



tain who was called Honeyvost knew not the melancholy fate in store for his own people when he said, at the close of the war, in words whose eloquence surpasses the eloquence of many white men, words which disclose the faith the red man had in a power beyond themselves, 'The Great Spirit spoke to the Whirlwind and it was still.'

"But we have wandered far from the old church and its history, the one thought dominant in every mind. Long after we shall have emerged today from this familiar doorway, will memories of this church abide with us all—memories of men and women we here have known and so also shall abide its inspiring influences.

"Among the early farm leases on the whole frontier of New York, some were known as 'perpetual leases.' The papers describing them declared, in language more poetical than legal documents are apt to contain, that they should last 'while water runs and grass grows.' We may properly apply these words to the founders of this church and to those who, in the ensuing 100 years, reared and maintained this edifice. Their influence upon this community and upon the world beyond its borders, to which the young men and young women of this village have gone, and will yet go, as the generations succeed one another; shall survive, 'while water runs and grass grows.' " 7

On the second day of the celebration, the Reverend Ralph Birdsall spoke on Father Daniel Nash, who was the first rector of Saint Matthew's Church and who is buried at a spot marked by marble shaft in one of the most picturesque burying grounds in America: the Christ churchyard in Cooperstown. Within the same enclosure lies Fenimore Cooper's grave.

In the *Unadilla Times* was an article printed on April 8, during the year 1924 that adds a few highlights to the history of this ancient church:

## ST. MATTHEW'S REPAIRED <sup>8</sup>

### UNADILLA EPISCOPAL CHURCH TO BE REDEDICATED PALM SUNDAY

Oldest Church Society in Unadilla, Formed in 1809—Church Consecrated in 1814—List of Rectors and Bits of Early History.

"Unadilla, April 8—St. Matthew's parish was organized and incorporated November 1, 1809, by the election of Josiah Thatcher and Abijah H. Beach as wardens, and Isaac Hayes, William Smith, Stephen Benton, Abel Case, Solomon Martin, Curtis Nobel, Dr. Nijah Cone and Sherman Page as vestrymen. This was the first organized church in town, and was the first erected house of worship. For its early organization it was much indebted to Father Nash, who for several years had visited and held service in this newly settled village, in private homes, and sometimes in barns. The church was founded to elevate the moral tone of the community and Presbyterians and Episcopalians were about equally divided.

"In 1810, the vestry purchased a piece of ground on which to erect a house of worship, and for a burial place. A headstone in the adjoining cemetery bears the date (Captain Edward Howell's tombstone) 1810.

"A contract was made with Sampson Crooker to erect a building 34 by 50 feet, and the skeleton was erected but stood, unfinished for two years, because of lack of money. Trinity Church, New York, was induced to advance \$1,400 by the efforts of Judge Sherman Page. The church was consecrated September 11, 1814, by the Rt. Rev. John Henry Hobart, who was then the only Episcopal bishop in New York State. The first rector was Rev. Russell Wheeler of Watertown, Connecticut. In 1817 a bell was purchased in London.

"In December, 1825, Norman H. Adams, then in deacon's orders, took the parish with St. Peter's of Bainbridge, and kept both for twelve years. Rev. Adams had received priest's orders and had also bought a farm on Main Street and erected a house. Many other buildings have since been built there. He continued until his death as leader of the church.

"Goldsborough Banyar gave the church 116 acres of wild land which later was cultivated as a farm and finally sold to furnish funds for building a rectory.

"In 1845 it was found necessary to enlarge the church and while this was being done, services were held in the summer in Arnold B. Watson's new carriage house, and in the district school house, which was built in 1821, in winter.

"Again in 1855 it was necessary to enlarge and services

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were held in the chapel of the Academy, which was built in 1851. It was then increased to 34 by 76 feet. In 1863 the purchase of a large organ required an addition on the east side for a choir loft.

"A rectory had become a necessity and Ruffus G. Mead gave a house and lot adjoining the church property on the east. To secure the required money to build, Hon. D. P. Loomis procured the legal consent of the heirs of Goldsborough Banyar and the consent of the Supreme Court to sell the farm which brought \$4,500. The small house given by Mr. Mead was sold for \$400 and moved away, and building began early in the spring of 1863. Long before it was completed the funds were gone. The increased cost of living affected the financial conditions and the failure of the Unadilla Bank left the vestry with a heavy burden of debt. An addition to the burial lot added to the expense, and it was feared they must dispose of some of the property. The original founders of the church were sleeping in the churchyard; three other churches, Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian, had been founded; the condition was serious, as these new churches had drawn from the attendance and contributions of St. Matthew's.

"It was then that Trinity church, New York, was asked for assistance, and refused, but offered \$1000 when all other sums were raised. W. J. Thompson's unremitting efforts for three months assisted by all other members, met with success.

"Again in 1924, repairs were needed, and with the remembrance of all those others who have contributed their means and loyalty in the past years, which have been here recorded, the work is accomplished, and St. Matthew's is again ready for service.

"During the years from 1814 to 1924, several beautiful memorial windows have been placed in St. Matthew's church, memorials to Rev. N. H. Adams and to families long since gone to their reward. Chancel furniture carved by Rev. Daniel E. Loveridge, baptismal font, candlesticks, tablets and many other pieces suitable and desirable.

"In this last work, the walls have been covered with steel lath and plastered white. The woodwork is stained black walnut to correspond with the handsome old walnut in the chancel



Two new furnaces are installed; the ceiling painted; the church rewired and all new lighting system, with lamps colonial style. Both Choir vesting rooms have been repainted and newly furnished. New prayer books and hymnals and other improvements have been made. Many helpful gifts have been received.

"The formal opening will be Palm Sunday, April 13, at 11 A.M. There will be Procession of Palms, baptisms and rededication services. Archdeacon Yale Lyon is the rector.

"Many names in St. Matthew's chronology are cherished not only as founders, but as workers and donors that have erected, enlarged and beautified St. Matthew's church. The list is much too long to be given. More than a century has passed since its founding and during that time, baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals have been consecrated within its walls and the communicants of today are reaping the reward of the labors of those who sleep so quietly in the churchyard, and of others whose duties have called them elsewhere."

Mrs. F. H. Meeker has been engaged in a study of the life of Father Nash and also in the history of St. Matthew's and her interesting account will someday be published with all the data she has collected.

The chronology of St. Matthew's is as follows: <sup>9</sup>

- 18— Father Nash holds services in Unadilla from time to time.
- 1809 St. Matthew's parish founded.
- 1810 Ground purchased for church and churchyard. Church building started.
- 1813 Donation of \$1,400 received from corporation of Trinity Church of New York City.
- 1814 Church consecrated on September 11, by the Right Reverend John Henry Hobart, Bishop of New York.
- 1814-1819 Rev. Russell Wheeler, Rector.
- 1819-1820 Rev. James Keeler, Rector.
- 1820-1825 Rev. Marcus A. Perry, Rector.
- 1825-1853 Rev. Norman A. Adams, Rector.
- 1845-1846 Mr. W. J. Thompson rebuilt the church edifice.
- 1846 Consecration of Church by the Rt. Rev. Heathcote DeLancy, Bishop, Western New York.
- 1854-1859 Rev. Samuel H. Norton, Rector.
- 1855 Enlargement of Nave.
- 1859-1863 Rev. Edward F. Baker, Rector.



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1863-1869	Rev. James H. Kidder, Rector.
1868	Rectory built.
1869-1875	Rev. Michael Scofield, Rector.
1875-1879	Rev. Charles Pelletreau, Rector.
1879-1889	Rev. Daniel E. Loveridge, Rector.
1889-1907	Rev. Robert N. Parke, Rector.
1908-1910	Rev. Elijah W. Green, Rector
1910-1942	Rev. Yale Lyon, Rector.
1942-1944	Rev. Moore, Rector.
1944-1950	Rev. Francis Blake, Rector.
1951-1952	Rev. Walter Strickland, Rector.
1952-1956	Rev. Alonzo Wood, Rector.
1956	Rev. William Chamberlin, Rector.

Unadilla can be very proud of the contribution made by Rev. Yale Lyon in the formation of a troop of Boy Scouts. According to the official records which have been verified with the General Headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America, the original Scoutmaster of Troop No. 1 received his commission on April 9, 1910. As the troop had had unbroken tenure, it completed 42 years in Scouting last April (1952).<sup>10</sup>

The charter members of the Unadilla Boy Scout Troop No. 1 were: Neil Stearns, Cecil Stearns, Howard Morse, Charles Hildreth, and Thomas McKay, with Rev. Yale Lyon as Scoutmaster.<sup>11</sup> The date given is even an earlier one than was recorded in the records of the Rev. Lyon, who several times referred to the date of September, 1910.<sup>12</sup> Troop No. 2 organized in 1916,<sup>13</sup> and was reregistered in 1921<sup>14</sup> Mrs. H. Lee Ward (Sarah Polhemus) writes, "We tried to have the troop registered then (1910), but there had to be a man leader and I could not find one until Amasa Teed took over as Scout Master of this troop."

Since membership in the original Boy Scout troop was apparently limited to the boys of the Episcopal Church, there was also formed a second troop in Unadilla called the C.E. Boy Scouts (Christian Endeavor). Marvin Teed and H. Lee Ward were among those that were interested in the formation of the second troop, but the guiding light was apparently Miss Sarah Polhemus, the daughter of the Presbyterian minister, who later became Mrs. Lee Ward. The second troop had originally planned to participate in the first State encampment at Coopers-

town, the summer of 1910, but instead camped on the banks of the river above the village: "H. Lee Ward and Marvin Teed are with them to safeguard the Scouts' well-being. The advance guard, if such it may be termed, went to camp site last Saturday to get things in readiness." <sup>15</sup>

An account of the participation of this first Scout Encampment by Troop 1 is as follows: "Taking the earliest train out of Unadilla on Wednesday morning went Scout Master Rev. Yale Lyon and five of the St. Matthew's Boy Scouts, their destination Cooperstown, where the State encampment of Boy Scouts is being held. The local Scouts were Cecil and Neil Stearns, Charles Hildreth, Thomas McKay, and Glen Whitaker not as many as expected, but all fully *accoutered* to spend a week in the open on the shores of Otsego Lake. Earl Hoyt of Oneonta joined the party at that city. The plan of hitting the trail from Oneonta to the camp site was abandoned. They may walk back part way. The boys are obliged to prepare their own food, shelter themselves and in other ways imitate true scout life. Today and tomorrow the scouts are to go on expeditions over the territory made famous by J. Fenimore Cooper in 'The Deerslayer' and 'The Pioneers.' A rally is planned to be held on the Clark estate grounds in Cooperstown on Sunday afternoon. Several interested friends of the scouts from here intend to visit the encampment during the week end. The Vitagraph Company has sent a force of operatives to Cooperstown for the purpose of making a motion picture of the scouts, which will be viewed by the patrons of theatres all over the land within a few months." <sup>16</sup>

This first encampment was held during the week of July 12-18 and they had planned that some 2,000 to 5,000 Scouts would participate: "The first patrols of both the St. Matthew's and Christian Endeavor troops of this village will go for a week and it is being arranged to take the younger members of both troops in automobiles to the camp for at least one day." <sup>17</sup>

Speakers under consideration were Ex-President Roosevelt and Governor Dix. "It is also hoped that the committee will be successful in arranging with Major Charles J. Swaddling to attend with his wireless telephone section." <sup>18</sup>

A subsequent report indicated that "while it was far from be-

ing as largely attended as expected, only about 200 Scouts participating, the ends of the project were gained and in coming years the effort of this year's encampment will be evidenced by greater enthusiasm and larger attendance." <sup>19</sup> "The encampment was visited on Monday by eight members of the C. E. Boy Scouts of this village attired in their uniforms, who had originally planned to spend the entire week in Cooperstown, but instead went into camp above this village. With them went Marvin Teed, Adviser Harold York, and Raie Benedict." <sup>20</sup> Early photographs have been located showing both troops working together in these early days.

Again referring to the official records of the Boy Scouts of America, we find these dates for Troop No. 2: March, 1916-March, 1920. Lapsed to June, 1922, June, 1922-June, 1925. <sup>21</sup>

The earlier records of the second troop seem to have disappeared, but these newspaper reports previously quoted authenticate the formation at an earlier date than the official records quoted seem to indicate. Subsequent years have seen a remarkable development of scouting, and the continuous record of Troop 1 has meant a great deal to our community. Rev. Yale Lyon subsequently was awarded the Silver Beaver in recognition of his continuous service and remarkable contribution to scouting. We also have a second award of the Silver Beaver to a resident of Unadilla, in the person of Herman Bard, who has associated with scouting for many years and has been active as a troop committeeman and a member of the Executive Board of the Otschedela Council of Boy Scouts. It is certainly to be hoped that the continuous record of Troop 1, which is community-sponsored, will continue and that the influence of scouting continue for many, many years.

In 1957 in conversation with Mr. Cecil Stearns, one of the members of the first Boy Scout Troop 1, he recalls the experience of the first camp at Cooperstown. According to Cecil they had a very rigid camp inspection and the Unadilla Troop was doing very well with a possible 100% record in view. Then they discovered a pair of shoes in the bread box. Scoutmaster Lyon observed that these might be emergency rations for the boys could chew on shoe leather—but Cecil affirms that they could not get away with that and lost their 100% record.



## 1900-1910

From an old package of papers belonging to Sluman L. Wattles of Sidney Center appears this poem which pertains to this decade and which indicates something of the economic conditions of the era:

"When are the good times going to begin?  
McKinley's elected and safely in  
Elected last fall with racket and chatter  
Good times have not come—now what is the matter?

Now butter for shilling a pound must beg  
And it's hard getting a cent for an egg  
And milk cent and half when March wind blows  
What will it be next June, you suppose?

They promised a boom but the true fact is  
They've boomed up nothing except the taxes  
The Congress just closed in a reckless way  
Laid four hundred million on the people to pay.

Our clothes, food and shelter and fuel they burn  
Every dollar of which somebody must earn  
And mostly by farmer's hard labor and toil  
For the wealth of the world must come from the soil.

Mechanics are idle and the merchants can't trade  
They can't get cash and to trust are afraid  
There's no business alive and kicking  
Only just one and that's office seeking."

Mention should be made of the passing of some of Unadilla's prominent citizens during this period. George Downing Raitt died on June 23, 1909. Mention has already been made of his activity in the printing industry and his ownership of the *Unadilla Times* from 1895. He married Tacy R. Bentz on June 18, 1896. Four sons were born to them: Leland Stewart (died in infancy), Richard George, James DeHuff and Nathan Stilson. He was an active Mason and was Master of Freedom Lodge 179 in 1903, High Priest of the Chapter, and belonged to the Norwich Commandery and the Shrine. He is buried in St. Matthew's churchyard and the Rev. W. E. Green conducted the service. His funeral, which the newspaper records as the largest held in Unadilla, occurred on Saturday of that week.

He was born in Afton, December 1, 1869. His father was George Raitt, who died in 1875, and his mother was Jennie Fisher, who survived him. During his lifetime he had made a distinct contribution to Unadilla.<sup>22</sup>

The new D. & H. station was built in 1903 to handle the increased business. The old D. & H. station became the freight-house.<sup>23</sup> There is an interesting story of the coming of the railroad:

One chapter of Erie history remains to be told. To build a railroad from Albany southwest, to connect with the Erie, early became a logical thing. Such a road, the Albany and Susquehanna, was incorporated on April 19, 1851, and, after extraordinary delays, opened from Albany to Oneonta on August 28, 1865, four years later. After the completion of a rather costly tunnel, it was extended to a connection with the Erie at Binghampton. In the meantime, a branch of the Erie, known as the Jefferson Railroad, had been built south from that road at Susquehanna to Carbondale, Pennsylvania, in the anthracite districts. In 1871, the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company built a short-cut line passing under the Starrucca Viaduct to the Albany and Susquehanna, at the village of Nineveh. The Albany road was, unquestionably, a key line to the rapidly increasing anthracite traffic from Pennsylvania to northeastern New York and northern New England. As such, it was coveted both by Erie and the long-established Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, which handled a lively coal traffic itself. A good deal of stock of the new Albany and Susquehanna was owned by the towns along the line. Jay Gould, representing the Erie, tried to get hold of this. The "Albany interests," friendly to the Canal Company, made every effort to checkmate him. Judge Joseph H. Barnard, never unfriendly to the Gould and Fisk interests, threw the Albany and Susquehanna into a receivership. The "Albany interests" checkmated by having the straight-forward Judge Rufus H. Peckham appoint Robert H. Pruyn of that city a receiver. Rival receivers, all endeavoring to exert their authority, led to great legal complications, which led, in turn, to what virtually amounted to civil war. Force was used, rails were torn up and bridges were burned. On August 11, 1869, the Barnard receivers appealed

to Governor Hoffman, who placed the road in the hands of the militia under Colonel Banks. From that time on, violence ceased, but it was months before the courts were cleared of the mass of ensuing litigation. When it all was over, the "Albany interests" and the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company were in control of the property.<sup>24</sup>

Unadilla profited by \$10,000 in Railway bonds which were held for a long period of years and were finally disposed of and the proceeds turned over to the Unadilla Academy. When the school was centralized the name chosen was "Unadilla Central School and Academy," thus insuring the continuity of the old name and title. The interest from these funds still appear in the receipts each year in the annual school budget and afford a continuing income for educational purposes.

This was truly an important decade. Fires and floods, centennial celebrations, important milestones along the road of progress and development in the Village Beautiful. Future historians may choose other events to call important, but to us living in the mid-twentieth century these seem outstanding.

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## FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 2

1. Psalms 90, verse 4.
2. Yale Lyon, Vol. 2, Lent, 1914 to September, 1916, p. 133, "H. Y. Canfield Hose, Hook and Ladder Company—List of Charter Members."
3. *Ibid.*, Vol. 1, July, 1910 to March, 1914, p. 100, "Came Home Victors."
4. Charles C. Flaesch, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 2, p. 99, "Village Lawgivers Since Its Incorporation in '88."
5. *Ibid.*, Vol. 1, p. 56, from *Unadilla Times*—"The Masonic Centennial."
6. *Free Masons Monitor*—Thomas Smith Webb, p. 315.
7. Yale Lyon, Vol. 2, p. 11, "Centennial Addresses."
8. *Ibid.*, Vol. 6, June, 1921 to August 22, 1926, "St. Matthew's Repaired," p. 28.
9. *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, Lent, 1914, to September, 1916, p. 10, "Chronology of St. Matthew's."
10. Letter from BSA to Walter Hunt, August 5, 1952.
11. Yale Lyon, Vol. 9, January, 1936 to September, 1940, p. 439, "Charter Members of Unadilla Boy Scouts."
12. *Ibid.*, Vol. 9, January, 1936 to September 1, 1940, p. 165, Note in Yale Lyon's handwriting.
13. *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, Lent, 1914 to September, 1916, p. 86, "Organization of Troop 2."



## THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

14. *Ibid.*, Vol. 5, May 9, 1921 to June 21, 1923, p. 87, "Boy Scout Troop No. 2 Organized."
15. *Ibid.*, Vol 1, July, 1910 to March, 1914, p. 47, "Camping Above Town."
16. *Ibid.*, p. 49, "Off for Scout Encampment."
17. *Ibid.*, p. 45, "Boy Scout Encampment," paragraph 2.
18. *Ibid.*, paragraph 3.
19. *Ibid.*, p. 50, "Scouts Back From Encampment."
20. *Ibid.*
21. Letter from BSA to W. L. Hunt, August 5, 1952.
22. C. C. Flaesch, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 1, p. 58, "Summary—George Downing Raitt."
23. Yale Lyon, Vol. 9, January, 1936 to September, 1940, p. 263, notes taken from under pictures of Unadilla of long ago.
24. *History of the State of New York*, A. Flick, Vol. VI, "The Age of Reform" p. 173, first two paragraphs.

## CHAPTER 3

### Changes in Main Street

SEVERAL PEOPLE have been assigned the task of writing a chapter noting the changes in Main St., but most of them have felt that the task was too complicated and involved and have accordingly asked to be released of the responsibility.

The late Arnold Sherman devoted quite a bit of time in this project, but unfortunately he was at the time in failing health and he complained several times, that his mind was not able to concentrate on the task. He did, before his death, complete a manuscript which will be on file with the historical research and data in connection with this project. Several who have read it, however, have advised that many of the reminiscences had no bearing on the topic and it has been reassigned.

Dr. Lee Ward and the late Marvin Teed, took up the assignment but the death of Marvin Teed brought to a stop the team project. Mr. Teed had been a bulwark of strength in his interest and concern for "The Village Beautiful." He had gathered many of the documents, had assisted in numerous interviews, and the death of both Mr. Arnold Sherman and Mr. Marvin Teed has brought a deep sense of loss in the preparation of the chapter.

One of the most important changes in Main Street, might be the approaches to the street. Let us consider the bridges across the Susquehanna at the upper end of the street. This was one of the phases covered by Mr. Arnold Sherman, and he had a very close connection with this interesting subject. Mr. Sherman is authority for the statement that "Now and since 1893 (with one replacement) this upper bridge has been made of steel. But from 1804 to 1893 two successive wooden bridges, the second being built about 1817, occupied approximately the same site." He makes mention of the fact that these covered bridges were sometimes called "Kissing bridges." Continuing he writes, "These were toll bridges and the rates for various kinds of traffic (exclusive of kissing) appeared on signboards."

One of which he remembers, stood on the west side of the northerly approach.

The second of these wooden bridges was owned and operated by the Susquehanna Bridge Co., formed about 1817 under chapter 212 of laws of 1817, of which Isaac Hayes and Arnold B. Watson were presidents. This act passed April 11, 1811 has this interesting data (Page 248—1817 Laws of the State of New York, Chapter 212) "That Isaac Hays, Curtis Noble, Sherman Page, William Gordon, James Hughston, Stephen Benton, Uriah Hanford, Daniel Coon, Henry Ogden, Willis Edson, Abijah H. Beach, and Daniel C. Hayes . . . be and they are hereby created a body corporate by the name of 'The president and directors of the Susquehanna bridge company' for the purpose of building a bridge across the Susquehanna river, at or near the place usually known by the name of Wattles 'ferry.'" Not to exceed 100 shares of stock at \$100 each were authorized and the bridge was to be built before August 1, 1819.

Par. VIII: "And be it further enacted, that the said bridge shall be at least sixteen feet wide and well covered with plank not less than 3" thick, the sides of the said bridge to be secured with good and substantial railing."

A further provision provided that if the bridge was impassable for 3 months then the corporation was dissolved except if the bridge was carried away by "Ice, freshets or any unavoidable accidents, in case the same shall be rebuilt within one year after the same shall be carried away."

Provision was also made in the closing paragraphs, "That if any person shall forcibly pass the said bridge without having paid the legal toll, such persons shall pay a fine not exceeding \$10 nor less than \$2.00." It was also noted that if anyone crossed the river "On foot or with his team, carriage or horse within half a mile of the said bridge, with intent to avoid paying the toll—then twice as much as the legal toll should be recovered against him." This, then is the legal background of the interesting upper bridge.

Several of these men were ancestors of Mr. Sherman and explain much of his interest and knowledge of the bridge. One of the illustrations in the book is, we believe, a hitherto unpublished photograph of the bridge showing its stone pillars



## CHANGES IN MAIN STREET

and this print is from a plate found in the old Fred Jayes property, torn down by Mr. Sherman, and a portion used in the new construction of his lovely home.

The Susquehanna Bridge Company was apparently, through some unusual legislative act, authorized to issue money. The copper plate, from which were engraved \$1, \$2, \$5 and \$10 notes of this Bridge Co., was owned by Mr. Sherman. At his death, through the generous cooperation of his daughters, and at the request of Mr. Wayne Tyson, this copper plate was turned over to the local Historical group and will become a priceless souvenir of this ancient Unadilla Company, with such a long service in the annals of Unadilla.

A later chapter mentions the more recent viaduct and overpass over the tracks of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Co., at the lower end of Main St. Alternate proposals were submitted to the voters of Unadilla, and this is more fully covered in a subsequent chapter, as is also the lower bridge with its tollhouse and peculiar regulation, with free toll to women shoppers in Unadilla. An excellent photograph of this lower bridge from Evergreen Hill Cemetery in possession of Wayne Tyson, is also included in the photographic section of the book.

Mention should also be made of one of the greatest changes in Main Street, which occurred when it was paved. This was during the administration of Jerome S. Seacord, as Mayor, in 1913. Everyone has seen the old photographs of Main Street, particularly those from North & Co., Bankers booklet, telling of Unadilla and published about 1895. Here you will find the ordinary dirt roads with mud-over-shoe-tops at spring time. Rains and floods made the cross walks at times virtually impassable. Nothing in the development of travel can compare with the network of improved highways, thruways, etc., which have marked the progress and development of the automobile. Here in its early stages was the improvement of the Main Street that made possible the development of travel, convenience, and comfort of our local citizens.

A historical document from the files of the late Mr. F. H. Meeker (Scrapbook A, page 44), shows the cost of curbing to individual property owners and may be of interest to future

generations, as they trace their property ownership to Main Street at the time it was first paved. Mr. Francis Halsey in *The Pioneers of Unadilla* noted the various owners at that time and this record in comparison will also record ownership in 1913 and the cost of the curbing which accompanied this improvement. A review of these names as owners of Main Street property brings to mind the many changes that have taken place in even these short years.

"NOTICE OF AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENT OF  
CURBING TAX ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNERS,  
VILLAGE OF UNADILLA, N.Y., 1913

To the persons owning property adjoining the curb and gutter on Main Street in the village of Unadilla, Otsego County, N.Y., as more particularly hereinafter set forth.

Take Notice, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Unadilla, having met January 31st, 1913, did make an apportionment and assessment of the expense of constructing the concrete curb and gutter on Main Street in said village to be paid for by the adjoining property owners, being \$4,370.40 at 40¢ per lineal foot on the adjoining land, and the amount of your respective assessments based upon said apportionment is as follows:

South Side of Main Street, Unadilla, New York

Names of taxable persons and property	No. of feet frontage	Amount
Frederick T. Sherman .....	323	\$ 129.20
T. F. Jeyes .....	210	84.50
Samuel Hodges .....	132	52.80
Jennie Miller and Effie Evarts .....	84	33.60
George Chapin .....	40	16.00
Sophia Bacon and Mary Bacon Mulford		
Executrices of the estate of Samuel		
Bacon, deed .....	163	65.20
Andrew J. Butler .....	91	36.40
Celia DeForest .....	59	23.60
Carrie Benedict .....	62	24.80
Hanford C. Smith .....	45	18.00
Fred E. Hunt .....	173	69.20
Minnie Tingley (Staur Hall) .....	127	50.80
Albert E. Mallery .....	81.5	32.00
G. N. Griswold .....	111	44.40
Trustees of Freedom Lodge, #324		
F. & A.M. Unadilla, N.Y.		
(Masonic Temple) .....	49	19.60

# CHANGES IN MAIN STREET

St. Matthew's Church, Unadilla, N.Y. . .	137.5	55.00
Maggie Williams . . . . .	84.5	33.80
Julia Woodruff . . . . .	86	34.40
R. K. Teller . . . . .	67	26.80
Levantia Halsey . . . . .	113	45.20
Halsey Underwood . . . . .	67	26.80
Charlotte Lee . . . . .	103.5	41.40
Amelia LeCount . . . . .	91	36.40
Sarah Davy . . . . .	84	33.60
J. B. Whitson . . . . .	100.3	40.12
A. J. Barlow . . . . .	120	48.00
George W. Hardy . . . . .	182	72.80
I. J. Whitney . . . . .	30	12.00
M. H. Beardsley . . . . .	40	16.00
Albert Fluckiger (Unadilla House) . . . .	191.5	76.60
Elizabeth Gregory and G. N. Gris- wold, Executor of the estate of G. B. Fellows, deceased . . . . .	77	30.80
Edwin Houck . . . . .	24	9.60
Frank Cole . . . . .	64	25.60
Trustees, Methodist Church, Unadilla, N.Y. . . . .	165	66.00
Lizzie White Makley . . . . .	182	72.80
Charlotte Hughston . . . . .	85.5	34.20
Trustees Presbyterian Church, Unadilla, N.Y. . . . .	81.5	32.60
Lizzie Robinson, Executrix of the estate of M. Robinson, deceased . . . . .	146.5	58.60
Mary E. Rifenbark and the estate of Tilden Rifenbark, deceased . . . . .	198	79.20
Helen A. Potter . . . . .	52	20.80
James Ingraham . . . . .	56	22.40
W. J. Topliff . . . . .	46	18.40
Charles Potter . . . . .	139	55.60
Chauncey Van Cott . . . . .	327½	131.00
Newton Weidman . . . . .	148	59.20
Emma Fowler . . . . .	65.7	26.28
North Side of Main Street, Unadilla, N.Y.		
Sylvester Phillips . . . . .	113	45.20
Dewitt Briggs . . . . .	150	60.00
Edgar Bartlett and David Cleveland . . . .	82.7	33.08
Eliphalet Chamberlain and Romania Chamberlain . . . . .	99	39.60
Helen Gray Hunt . . . . .	79.6	31.84
Wm. D. Hanford . . . . .	66	26.40



# THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

Sarah French and John W. Pearce . . . . .	66.5	26.60
Sarah Crandall . . . . .	40	16.00
Harriet Belknap . . . . .	141.5	56.60
Belle S. North as Executrix of the estate of Sam'l S. North, deceased		
Harris Gillett . . . . .	93	37.20
Wesley Mulford . . . . .	98	39.20
Bert McIntosh . . . . .	80	32.00
Mary E. North . . . . .	124.5	49.80
Cornie C. Moore . . . . .	98.5	39.40
Elizabeth Gregory and G. N. Griswold, Executor of the Estate of G. B. Fellows, deceased . . . . .	258.2	113.28
Belle S. North as Executrix of the estate of Samuel North, deceased (block) . .	107.5	43.00
Lizzie Robinson as Executrix of the estate of M. Robinson, deceased (block) . . . . .	78.5	31.40
Wesley Mulford and Robert W. Siver as Executor of the estate of Robert Siver deceased . . . . .	87.5	34.92
Unadilla National Bank . . . . .	35	14.00
Martha Kentfield . . . . .	149.5	59.80
I. J. Whitney . . . . .	104.5	41.80
Charles Sweet . . . . .	107.5	43.00
Eveline Ham . . . . .	89.5	35.80
Clarissa Stewart . . . . .	114	45.60
P. G. Clark . . . . .	92	36.80
O. L. Ireland . . . . .	66	26.40
M. P. Sweet . . . . .	170	68.00
A. E. Seaman (block) . . . . .	71.2	28.48
F. M. Sisson (block) . . . . .	65	26.00
Howard Bundy (block and lot) . . . . .	63.5	25.40
Harriet M. Hildreth and Charles E. Hildreth (block) . . . . .	54	21.60
Unadilla Village . . . . .	5	2.00
Charles Bishop, Mary Bishop, Jennie Bishop, Sharpe (hotel) . . . . .	229	91.60
Clarissa A. Stewert (block) . . . . .	95	38.00
J. C. Scribner . . . . .	247	98.80
Union Free School District, No. 14, Unadilla and Sidney . . . . .	166.5	66.60
S. Horace Chapin . . . . .	108.3	43.32
James J. Collins . . . . .	207.5	83.00
Martha Brown . . . . .	85	34.00

# CHANGES IN MAIN STREET

Jerome S. Seacord and Mary E.		
Seacord .....	83.7	33.48
F. J. H. Berg .....	86	34.40
Amada Bacon .....	82	32.80
Stephen Hait .....	74	29.60
H. C. Rockwell .....	73	29.20
A. E. Seaman .....	85	34.00
Spencer Eells .....	248.5	99.40
Augusta Hayes, Mary H. Hayes		
Minerva H. Hayes, Carrington Hayes ..	211	84.40
Dora Meyers .....	165	66.00
Mary Myers Peck .....	83	33.20
William Shaw .....	83	33.20
Sarah I. Canfield and Cora M.		
Tyson as Executrices of the estate of		
H. Y. Canfield, dec'd. ....	182	72.80
<hr/>		<hr/>
10,926 ft.		\$4,370.40

That each of you may pay the amount of your respective assessment to A. E. Pixley, Village Treasurer, within ten days after receiving this notice; that in default of payment of said assessments certificates of indebtedness will be issued by the said village, at the expiration of said time for aggregate amount of such assessments remaining unpaid payable in four equal annual payments as near as may be with interest at the rate said certificates shall bear, payable annually, and that taxes will be levied and collected on such adjoining lands and owners who are in default for their respective unpaid assessments to pay said certificates as they become due with the interest thereon in the manner prescribed by law, in the annual tax levy. That said assessment was duly made by said village board and filed with W. J. Topliff, Village Clerk, January 31st, 1913, and also with Jerome S. Seacord, Village President and will remain open for inspection.

It is further resolved, that the said notice containing said assessment be published in the Unadilla Times.  
Dated Unadilla, N.Y. February 24th, 1913.

(Seal)	JEROME S. SEACORD,	GEORGE E. WHITAKER
	Village President	Village Engineer
(Seal)	GEORGE E. WHITAKER; A. E. SEAMAN, Trustees	
	W. J. TOPLIFF, Clerk"	

Many old landmarks have been sacrificed in the path of progress and development. One of these was the stone law office about 12 x 20, of Judge Charles C. Noble, which stood about where the home of Mrs. Heimer now stands and opposite the

gymnasium entrance of the present high school building. Again, quoting Mr. Sherman, "The loss of Judge Noble's picturesque little stone office, was indirectly due to the improvement and widening of Main St.," for the contractor of the road job purchased and used the material in the street. The highway running North from Main St., is known as Noble Street, bounded the Noble property on the west.

In 1931 when the present Central School and Academy was erected, at a location about opposite the Meeker home, the Arnold B. Watson house was torn down. It was purchased by the school and during the demolition of the old school was used as classrooms, then as the new school was erected the lovely old pillared home was torn down. Four huge high columns were the outstanding feature of this type of early architecture, and there was said to be a secret stairway from the upper floor to the attic and behind its clapboards were walls of brick. Many will recall the J. C. Scribner family, who owned and occupied this lovely home in later years. A further addition and wing on the Unadilla Central School building was completed in 1956 and it utilizes a portion of the former Watson property.

The Socony Gas Station at the corner of Depot and Main replaces the old brick building, which was once the Watson and Hayes Bank at one time the center of "Uptown" industry and banking, and which later was the grocery store of B. M. Pecor. Here an old record book was found as the building was destroyed and is now in the possession of Lynn Earl. This, too, is mentioned in a subsequent chapter. The bank operated by Watson & Hayes failed and there was considerable feeling in the town at the time. One lady, in the writer's acquaintance, has told me that her Grandmother, as she walked by the wide flagstones in front of the Watson home, used to say, "Well, this is a nice walk—it ought to be for my money bought it." Mr. Arnold Sherman, in his account tells that certain New York interests purchased and collected the bank notes of small village banks, then pressed for payment, sending couriers on horseback to these towns, demanding instant payment on these obligations. According to Mr. Sherman, while Mr. Arnold B. Watson was in Europe on his second wedding trip, this is what actually happened to the bank of Watson and Hayes.



## CHANGES IN MAIN STREET

Following the bank failure, S. S. North took up the banking business in Unadilla and was very successful in it. His contribution to the development and growth of Unadilla is noteworthy and his bank was succeeded by the Unadilla National Bank, organized in 1909, and whose building just West of the Community House has been enlarged and remodeled to accommodate the increased growth of that fine institution serving the people of Unadilla.

Going on down Main St., the old stone house on lower Main St. has been purchased and converted into St. Ambrose Catholic Church, with a growing congregation and membership.

Almost directly opposite a new street, Hopkins Street, named in honor of John M. Hopkins, has been a recent development and growth in Unadilla. Nine or ten new modern homes in the last few years have added greatly to the lovely homes of Unadilla and have given the needed expansion brought about by our proximity to the Scintilla Company at Sidney. Church Street has also been extended to the river and at least eight new homes have been erected here. In fact, careful consideration has been given to expansion in every direction. The road towards Sidney, towards Wellsbridge, up Sperry and Adams Streets, a new development Ontio Terrace on the old Fairground site, and various new homes, scattered throughout the village, disclose the steady and comfortable growth.

Mention of changes on Main St., should certainly include addition of Sunday school rooms, new kitchen, etc., at The Methodist Church in 1928 and again at their centennial in 1954, and also the Yale Lyon Parish Hall for education and recreation purposes at St. Matthew's Church. A new modern diner is just being completed as an addition to the diner on the Judge Page property opposite the Community House. A Gulf Station on the corner of Main and Bridge Streets and a Shell Station on the corner of Mill and Main, as well as other gas stations at each end of Main Street, indicate the change from horse and buggy days to present automotive age, and who can tell where our airport may be located, as we advance in air transportation.

One of the delightful features of the Village Beautiful has been its well kept homes, painted and in repair, carefully land-

## THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

scaped and with beautiful lawns and shade trees. The evidence of the pride and civic concern of the owners has been spoken of many times by tourists and transient visitors. Much modernization, repair, remodeling and improvement has taken place not only on Main Street but all over our lovely village and these with the beautiful old homes, with some lovely new ones, still constitute a large part of the Village Beautiful.

## CHAPTER 4

### 1910 to 1920

THE second decade of this half century was also an interesting era. It contained the period of World War I and was a period of many changes in our community.

Gradual changes come about which cannot be associated with any particular period, but which reflect the changing conditions. For example, Mr. Wayne L. Tyson is authority for the statement that the names of the streets in Unadilla have now been changed.<sup>1</sup> An old map in his possession published in 1868 shows Elm Row, which is now Maple Avenue. Noble Street at that time was Bragg Street. Mill Street was Water Street. There was no Prospect Street and Adams Street did not go across the tracks, as that portion of the town was all in farmland, and also the location of the Susquehanna Agricultural Society, which took a major part of it. Page Street was known as Elm Street. Bridge Street went all the way across the tracks and clear up the hill; therefore, there was no Clifton Street. There also was no Fellows Street, as it was known as Watson Street.

The old elm which many of us remember as located in the center of Adams Street has an interesting history. It is recorded that this tree was guaranteed the middle of the road for life.<sup>2</sup> This was a bargain which was made by Reverend Norman Adams, who was the rector of St. Matthew's from 1825 to the year of his death, 1853, when he sold the land in order that the road might be built. It is said that Rev. Adams was extremely fond of this tree, which was large when he came to the village. His property included that whole block of our village bounded on the South by Main Street, on the West by Adams Street, on the North by Butternut Street, and on the East by Martin Brook Street. His was the only house on the property, and the rear of the land was farmland. (This was the house which was occupied for many years by Mrs. Sweet, and is now owned by Mrs. Bertha Brion.) When plans were made for the



road, he refused to sell unless it was promised that the tree would remain standing as long as it lived. Accordingly, the road was built on either side of the tree and for many years it remained as one of the oldest trees in Unadilla. The Dutch Elm disease and other natural enemies took their toll, and the tree was removed, and the road built over its previous location. There is still a slight projection in the road, with a little of the stump left showing which tells of the original location of this famous elm.

Changing industrial situations have meant a great deal to Unadilla. Any review of the history will indicate the great developments that have taken place. H. G. Spafford wrote in 1811, according to Miss Frances Freeman,<sup>3</sup> one of the teachers at Unadilla Central School, that at that time there was a quarry for grindstones, 16 sawmills (which incidentally, floated their lumber down the Susquehanna to Baltimore), five grain mills, and five distilleries of whiskey.

We also have the record of the very interesting old mill which was in Crookerville just across the river. From some of the old residents,<sup>4</sup> we learn that Jacob Crooker conceived the idea of building a factory in the vicinity of Unadilla. He saw the fine waterpower that was in this branch of the Susquehanna, which had separated from the main stream some distance above, forming an island in the river. "He chose the smaller part as being sufficient for his purpose and built the dam and the large building as it now stands, putting in the machinery, etc., for the manufacturing of wool into yarn and cloth, employing quite a number of hands both men and women to do the work." Seth Youmans, the writer of this reminiscence, says "in my younger days I often met with those that told of their younger days when they were employed as workers in Crooker's woolen factory. And it was in this factory, as I have been informed, that the late Henry Crooker, then a young man working for his uncle, became acquainted with one of the fair operators in the weaving department. An alliance was formed which in after years leaves us with William H. Crooker, general hardware merchant of Unadilla." <sup>5</sup>

Mr. William Crooker came to Unadilla from Masonville, and purchased the hardware business of Cone & Bolles in

1888, and ran a successful hardware store for several years. He became very famous in his enormous sale of stoves, and very large quantities of barbed wire, and other items of hardware. In later years (1897) the Crooker family moved to Wisconsin but in his later life, William Crooker returned to Unadilla (1905) and was one of its prominent citizens. His death occurred in 1919.

Getting back to the old mill at Crookerville, it is said that a large boarding house was built near the factory, and with this as a nucleus, a number of private residences and a tavern, which in those days was considered indispensable, grew up around the boarding house, and thus was founded the little hamlet of Crookerville. The article continues: "Why this enterprise was changed from a woolen factory to a grist mill some years after I am not told, but as a grist mill it was on my first recollection and a very busy one also, and it also had the reputation of doing good work which was custom work mostly. The farmer takes his wheat, rye, corn or buckwheat to the mill and the miller takes out a per cent of the grist which is to pay for grinding which was called toll. There were other grist mills at Unadilla, Otego and elsewhere where my father would take small quantities of grain to be ground when he had other business at the place, but when he had to go for grinding only he always chose the Crookerville mill. In after years it had special machinery for grinding buckwheat and people from Unadilla, Otego, Franklin, and Walton came with loads to be ground. And after harvest in the fall and winter one could seldom take a grist to mill and have it ground to take home the same day.

"A long shed was built with mangers for feeding near the mill where customers while waiting for their work to be done, might feed their teams if they chose. Solomon Youmans, a brother of my father, lived but a short distance below the mill. We would always combine business with pleasure and when we went to the mill with grain to be ground we went to Uncle Solomon's or when we went for a visit we would take a small grist to be ground while visiting. There I had cousins about my own age and to help entertain would introduce the boys of Crookerville and also to the sights around the place. We knew the grist mill from the water wheels below to the large

bins above used for storing grain. We would go and call on Uncle Josh Huftalen who had a small shoe shop where two or three men were employed in making or repairing boots and shoes. He had a small grocery store in the front where he sold sugar, tea, tobacco, snuff, etc., as well as needles, thread and various other articles, a sort of variety store and where the men and boys would come to exchange the news and have a visit. Not to know Uncle Josh was considered bad form. Politics, religion and current events were discussed at Uncle Josh's as well as at the village grocery of the present day. It was, I think, in the winter of 1857 I visited my cousins for a whole week, and with them went to the district school. The school house was then just above the corner near the old covered bridge across the Susquehanna above Unadilla. The teacher was an elderly man by the name of Hawley and the school numbered over 80 pupils of all ages from the child of four years to the young man and woman of 21. The school soon was packed to its utmost capacity, extra seats and chairs being used. I remember well the noise and confusion made in the schoolroom and being a boy of nine years I was much pleased with the school. Classes were reciting some two or three at a time being heard by some of the elder ones in order to help the teacher who spent the great part of school hours in keeping order, which was no small job. I can recall the names of Eveans, Myers, Gilbert Crane and Huftalen, Shaw and Betts as being present at that time aside from my cousins in the schoolroom, and with coasting down the hill on the fine moonlight evenings with the boys of Crookerville made it a week I always remember.

"The tavern was kept by a man by the name of Gilbert who had a son called Jack Gilbert who attended the school mentioned and had the best sled for coasting of any of the party and therefore was the acknowledged leader. Crookerville then, as now, was one of the polling places for election and town meetings, and more votes were cast at the polls there than any other place in the town of Sidney. The voting place was the bar room of the tavern." <sup>6</sup>

In any consideration of the early industries of Unadilla, we should mention the Eells tannery. A subsequent chapter on changing industries will contain a more detailed account of it.



The writer was interested to discover a copy of a newspaper published September 10, 1859, in Sidneyville, New York.<sup>7</sup> At the moment, none of our committee knows where Sidneyville may have been. Crookerville is very definite but it must have been close to Unadilla, because a notation in the issue says "All orders must be addressed to the proprietor at Unadilla, Otsego County, New York." The editor and publisher of *The Young American* was C. A. VanVradenburg.<sup>8</sup> The terms were 25¢ per annum, "invariably in advance." After proceeding with the news of Unadilla, "went or sent to Rochester for some tobacco plants. They arrived safe, and he planted about half an acre. The plants grew very fast, and the neighbors were told of the good investment he had made. The gentleman was in Unadilla a few days since, and in speaking of his tobacco crop, said that he had watched the progress of his plants with increasing interest as they grew larger, and now they had gone to seed, but had turned out to be MULLENS!" The issue also mentions the Unadilla Academy, as follows: "The Unadilla Academy, is fast gaining ground under the management of Prof. R. L. Thatcher, assisted by Mr. M. E. Thatcher. This institution had nearly 'run ashore' but bids fair to gain the open sea again. The last term closed, we believe, with less than 30 scholars; while Mr. Thatcher, after having taught but two weeks, has increased the number to over 80. Every parent should endeavor to give their progeny what is termed a 'finished education,' which is impossible for them to do, unless they employ competent teachers; and such a one they will find in Prof. Thatcher." It also announced: "It is announced in the English papers that the Great Eastern steamship, now fully complete, will sail for America September 15th."

But the item of particular interest at the moment is an advertisement; "TO BUILDERS: GOOD HAIR, for mixing mortar can be found in large or small quantities, at EELL'S TANNERY, UNADILLA, N. Y." This tannery was located just at the upper end of Martin Brook Street where the bridge crosses on the road to Rogers Hollow, and was a continuing industry for many years.

How easy it is to reminisce of the times that have gone by. But to return to the period of 1910-1920:

## THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

Various social functions were taking place. The fine stone property on Main Street, owned and occupied by William Crooker and his family, was sold to Charles Sweet. Mr. Sweet was a wool dealer, living in Lansingburg, New York, and they chose Unadilla as a place of permanent residence after having made visits in many other parts of the state.<sup>9</sup>

The Woman's Club was active and there remain many programs of the activities of this club with representatives from Sidney, New Berlin, Bainbridge, Sidney Center, and representatives of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs visiting here as early as 1910.<sup>10</sup>

Lou Sherwood was one of the citizens of our community who had unusual ability as an actor. If there was an entertainment of any kind to be put on, Lou Sherwood was called upon to render his service, and the success of the project was assured if he was one of the characters. Following are excerpts from a program referring to a production put on February 11 and 12, Thursday and Friday, 1915. "COMING—HAPPY HOLLOW! A GRAND SCENIC PRODUCTION IN FOUR ACTS. WITH LOU SHERWOOD as EZEKIEL HARKINS, supported by an excellent and Capable Company. PERFECT IN EVERY DETAIL; A PLAY FOR THE YOUNG AND OLD; BEAUTIFUL ELECTRICAL EFFECTS UNDER THE AUSPICES AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LADIES PARISH LEAGUE OF ST. MATTHEW'S MULFORD'S HALL, FEB. 11 and 12."<sup>11</sup> This is simply an indication of Mr. Sherwood's ability and the service that he performed for all organizations.

A pageant entitled "EARLY DAYS IN UNADILLA" was presented May 31st, 1915. This was written by Rev. Yale Lyon and it was enacted on the banks of the Susquehanna River. Early characters portrayed included:

"FATHER NASH  
NATHANIEL WATTLES  
BETSEY WATTLES  
SLUMAN WATTLES  
SARAH CONE  
STEPHEN BENTON

Floyd Hanor  
Arthur Chase  
Florence Stanbro  
Frederick Morse  
Katherine Cone  
Arthur Dixon

*LOCAL MILITIA:*

CAPTAIN URIAH

HANFORD

ISAAC HAYES

DANIEL COME

CURTIS NOBLE

ISSAC HODGES

Stewart Vroman

James Raitt

Choral Webler

Clifford Wyman

Charles Vroman

*IROQUOIS:*

LITTLE-PAW-OF-

A-GRIZZLY-BEAR

WHITE CLOUD

BLACK HUNT

BLACK FOOT

STRAIGHT ARROW

LITTLE BOW

RED FEATHER

Wesley Wilber

Mrs. Lyon

Alfred Evans

Charles Flaesch

Paul Dixon

Harold House

Clarence Butts

*MOHAWKS:*

CHIEF JOSEPH BRANT

LITTLE SCOUT

MOLLY BRANT

FLOATING CLOUD

RIPPLING WATER

DAWN AND DAY

EVENING STAR

MANY FLOWERS

Richard Raitt

Nathan Raitt

Harriette Johnson

Ruth Sharpe

Erwina Rich

Dorothy DeWitt

Erma Head

Helen Dixon

"Braves: Frederic Dixon, Theron Cole, Aldis Hollan, Wallace Irland, Owen Irland, Crosswell Irland, Arthur Palmer, Clarence Palmer, Lee Himmelberger, Lindly Hallock, Howard Pecor, Donald Morse, Paul Carney, Austin and Arnold Southworth, Monte Cone, Lionel Cole, Van McKay.

"RED HAWK, Attendant on Father Nash—James Stewart.

EARLY SETTLER—Carleton Cole

SPIRIT OF THE PROPHECY—Priscilla Griswold,  
Assisted by a chorus of spirits  
who lived in the Susquehanna.

"GIRLS OF THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY: Ada Butler, Marla and Sadie Cornell, Evelyn Thomas, Nanette Stearns, Josephine Lindhorn, Barbara Cone, Margaret Peck, Ruth Vroman Carrie Himmelberger, Mabel Minor, Roberta Wyman, Helen Gilbert, Clare Stanbro, Ruth Vroman." <sup>12</sup>

All these parts were taken by local Boy Scouts and young ladies of the community. The proceeds went to the Boy Scouts,



and their treasury was fattened by the amount of \$32.00.<sup>13</sup>

It was the custom to have a river fete and fireworks on the Fourth of July. This celebration was held in 1915 in Hayes' Park on upper Main Street. Fireworks were set off and a procession of gaily decorated boats and canoes was an added attraction, "all possessing boats and canoes are requested to decorate them observing the caution given last year to have all lights hang over the water and not over persons in the boat or canoe." Music by the Citizens' Band helped to add to the festivity of the occasion.<sup>14</sup> The record indicates that the celebration was postponed until Friday, July 16. The continual heavy rains had made the river so high that it would have been dangerous for small boats and canoes. The fete was apparently held on Hunt Island, now a part of the property owned later by Howard Allen, now by J. Stanley Earl. Over 250 different colored lanterns made a very festive effect and 300 people attended. Rev. Yale Lyon, with the Messrs. F. M. Tyson, R. K. Teller were the committee in charge.<sup>15</sup> These Venetian Fetes were apparently begun in 1910 and carried through until 1915, but were discontinued during the war, and then reinstated immediately after the conflict.<sup>16</sup>

Meanwhile, the Alumni Association had been holding annual meetings, and on June 25, 1914, they celebrated their 16th annual banquet of the Alumni Association. Toastmaster was Principal Frank Stanbro. A welcome to the Class of 1914 was given by Miss Viola Burlison; the response for the class by Clifford Carpenter. Miss Ethel Warfield gave a piano solo. Then followed four speeches which are recorded: "The Changing Conception of Liberty"—Delmar Sisson; "Life in Puerto Rico"—Miss Lillian Teller; "Impressions and Recollections of a Honeymoon in Italy"—Rev. Yale Lyon; and "Preventative Medicine"—Dr. Whitney H. Joyce.<sup>17</sup>

A card from a New York studio tells of some of the latest dances for the coming season:

"Military Two-Step  
Crab Crawl  
One-Step  
Beletta Waltz  
Five-Step Boston

Nanette  
Aviation Glide  
Ostend  
Aeroplane Waltz  
Elsie Janus

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Raglan	Herringbone Waltz
Skaters	Texas Tommy
Tongo	Spanish Boston
Gaby Glide	Hampton Glide
Sefton Waltz	Horse Trot
etc., etc., etc." <sup>18</sup>	(approximately 1914 season)

A public reception (approximately 1910) was given by the Board of Education for non-resident students which attracted perhaps 200 persons in the assembly hall of the high school. Guests were welcomed by President Charles C. Flaesch, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Van Cott, Miss Edith Gilmore, Dr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Crooker, Principal Frank Stanbro, Miss Robbins of East Guilford for the training class and Edwin Chamberlin for the Seniors.<sup>19</sup>

Such is the record of the various social events of this period.

At a special election of the village held in Mulford and Siver's Hall in about the year 1911, the voters authorized by a substantial majority of 169 votes the trustees to issue bonds in the amount of \$13,500 to meet the expense of having Main Street improved as provided in the proposition submitted viz.: "a curb to curb macadam road with concrete gutters and curbing the length of the street on both sides, to be done at the time that the improved sixteen-foot-wide highway is put in by the state."<sup>20</sup> A list of the property owners, the amount of footage on Main Street, and the cost of curbing is shown in Chapter 3.<sup>21</sup>

The census of 1915 showed Unadilla having 21 aliens, and 2,436 citizens, making a total of 2,457. Oneonta City had a population of 10,496, and Otsego County had a total of 48,467. This was a slight increase over the 1910 census, when there was a total of 47,416.<sup>22</sup>

Cars recently purchased of local dealers included an Overland of Tabor & Oles by Scott Clark of Unadilla, A. J. Sheldon of Sidney, Earl Rook of Otego, and Sherman Burdick of Otego; Dodges of George Whitaker by Royal Dean, L. T. Wood and William Spencer; a Cadillac by Charles C. Flaesch.<sup>23</sup> \* The coming of the automobile is definitely indicated with its development of the highway.

\* The first automobile owned in Unadilla was by Monte Cone, with the second one in a short time owned by Frank Van Cott.

Unadilla had an Assembly man in the Legislature of 1898: Hon. Leland M. Cowles. Following is a quotation from the *Oneonta Star* of April 1, 1899: "Assemblyman Cowles was on the Revision, Taxation and Retrenchment, and Privileges and Elections Committee. He introduced the following bills: An act to appropriate \$2,000 for a monument at Cooperstown; an act amending the charter of Cherry Valley; an act in relation to places where justices of peace can hold court; an act in regard to the appropriation of moneys for town affairs and an act incorporating the Oneonta Water Power Company." <sup>24</sup>

The Hon. C. C. Flaesch went into partnership in Unadilla with the Hon. D. P. Loomis, but shortly after the formation of this partnership, the Hon. David Loomis died. A record of 1876 <sup>25</sup> tells us that the 20th Senatorial District composed of the counties of Herkimer and Otsego is represented by David P. Loomis. He was a resident of Unadilla from 1853 until the time of his death.

In September, 1916, this article appeared in the *Unadilla Times*: "The war message sent from Plymouth to Fort Lawton, Seattle, Wash., was taken through this village Monday evening by the Mercer owned by Fred T. Hubbell of this village with his chauffeur, Irl Meade, accompanied by Fred Hubbell, Judge Frank M. Tyson and Fred Tabor. The car was going 70 miles an hour when it passed through Main Street, where interested and enthusiastic crowds had gathered to see it pass through which it did about 9:02 p.m.

"Mr. Hubbell dropped a box containing a note for his wife, from the car in front of the home of R. K. Teller which was seen and given to her.

"Irl Meade, driver of Mr. Hubbell's Mercer, is a driver of repute and has driven at the Indianapolis track at 95 miles an hour. He was not familiar with the road and was directed by Messrs. Tyson and Tabor. The total number of miles from Phoenicia to Binghamton, 143 miles, was covered in three hours and five minutes.

"The Mercer was followed by the Cadillac of Hon. Charles Smith of Oneonta as a relief car if needed. The message reached Binghamton one hour ahead of time where it was immediately



taken in charge by motorists there and hurried to Elmira, which must have been reached before midnight.

"The first relay was made by the first commissioner of Plymouth, who started at 12:00 making the first mile in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. The message reached Kingston before 6 o'clock and left at 6:00 reaching Phoenicia at 6:38 p.m. Mr. Hubbell's car stood waiting and made the start at 6:40 for Oneonta. The time allowance for the entire trip in which the war department is greatly interested, a distance of 3,685.5 miles, is 120 hours, an average of about 30 miles per hour.

"The tour is under the direction of the Yellowstone Park Association and is for the purpose of demonstrating the condition of the road across the country. The war department had aided in mapping out the itinerary and has furnished the message which the couriers are to deliver and which is scheduled to reach its destination Saturday.

"A telegram was received by Fred C. Hubbell, Wednesday forenoon sent from Fort Plain, Indiana, and gave the time made by relays thus far, ending by saying, 'Yours was the best time.' " <sup>26</sup>

Also about this time the milk war ended. Following are excerpts from the *Unadilla Times* on the subject: "Milk Dealers Yield to Dairymen's demands, Business Resumed at Creameries in Village . . . Officials of the Dairymen's League were busy October 15th, telephoning and telegraphing to the farmers in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut that the milk war had been won and milk would be distributed in New York City Monday morning. The Borden Company was the last to agree to the terms of the contract.

" . . . The distributor is to pay the farmer 45 cents a hundred pounds more for milk than he received last year. That is approximately an increase of one cent a quart. This price is to hold until January 1, 1917, after which the price for milk for the next three months is to be fixed by a committee of two dealers, two members of the Dairymen's League and a fifth member selected by these four . . . While the farmers are congratulating each other on their victory over the so-called 'milk trust,' they realized that it had been an expensive fight for both sides, and that the losses consequent upon it had run into the millions." <sup>27</sup>

## THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

The Pike County (III) *Republican* ran this rather facetious summary of happenings twenty years before:

### TWENTY YEARS AGO

Ladies wore bustles.  
Operations were rare.  
Nobody swatted the fly.  
Nobody had appendicitis.  
Cream was five cents a pint.  
Nobody sprayed their orchards.  
Cantaloupes were muskmelons.  
You never heard of a "Tin Lizzie."  
Milk shake was a favorite drink.  
The hired girl drew \$1.50 a week.  
Advertisers did not tell the truth.  
Doctors wanted to see your tongue.  
Nobody "listened in" on a telephone.  
The butcher "threw in" a chunk of liver.  
Folks said pneumatic tires were a joke.  
Farmers came to town for their mail.  
Most every young man had livery bills.  
Strawstacks were burned instead of baled.  
There was no sane Fourth, nor electric meters.  
Publishing a country newspaper was not a business.  
Jules Verne was the only convert to the submarine.  
You stuck tubes in our ears to hear a phonograph, and  
it cost a dime.<sup>28</sup>

In the war effort, Unadilla took its place among the other communities of our nation and rendered a splendid service. The total of war loans was oversubscribed. An honor flag was presented to the village and the record of the various loans is as follows: <sup>29</sup>

Total of Quotas	Total Amount Subscribed	No. Subscribers
1st Loan \$ 78,000	1st Loan \$ 43,600	1st Loan 105
2nd Loan 118,500	2nd Loan 118,500	2nd Loan 389
3rd Loan 63,000	3rd Loan 93,400	3rd Loan 479
4th Loan 125,000	4th Loan 147,300	4th Loan 850
5th Loan 92,700	5th Loan 139,450	5th Loan 335
Total \$478,200	Total \$542,250	Total 2158

The Loan Committee consisted of: Messrs. F. H. Meeker,

## 1910-1920

W. H. Sisson, C. C. Flaesch, Carl Pomeroy, J. S. Seacord, J. M. Hopkins, F. M. Tyson, B. M. Pecor, A. E. Pixley, and W. D. Hanford. (See illustrations.)

During the same period a great deal of support was given to the Red Cross, and patriotic rallies were held on various occasions in the high school assembly hall. Unadilla established for itself an enviable reputation in always meeting its quota and oversubscribing the required amount.

Our record in the war effort itself was outstanding. From the various records that are available, we find that the following are recorded as having served their country in its armed services while two made the supreme sacrifice for their country.

Ackley, Herman D.	Fluckiger, Howard
Ash, Harrison Boyd	Forrest, Marshall P.
Baker, Lynn	Gates, Calvin
Baker, Ray	Graham, Edward M.
Beckman, Herman D.	Gregory, Maxwell D.
Bell, Harold	Hait, Ezra
*Bell, Roy	Hammond, V. O.
Bennett, Clifford B.	Helm, William, Jr.
Bowles, T.	Herrick, P.
Bugbee, Edward J.	Hine, George
Bugbee, George	Hine, Smith S.
Bundy, Ernest	Holmes, Harvey
Carley Lynn	Hunt, Bartlett
Carney, Lawrence	Jones, Thomas
Carr, Benjamin	*Joyce, Whitney
Casey, Glenn	Judd, Ezra
Church, Ross	Kinch, Jay
Cole, Burns	Long, Harry
Crandall, Archie	Lord, Ray
Cuyle, Owen	Loomis, Barlow T.
Davis, William	Loomis, Theodore Ernest
Day, Arthur	Marcellus, Dallus E.
DeForest, Clarence	McKay, Thomas
DeForest, Ray	Merrill, James E.
Downin, Harry	Merriman, Reniff E.
Earl, Lynn P.	Merwin, B. Claude
Evans, Louis	Merwin, John
Everett, Nail J.	Miller, Claud B.
Fink, Harry	Mills, Edward E.
Fleming, Clarence	Morse, Howard

\* Star indicates killed in action.



## THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

Mulford, George Seward	Stearns, Cecil
Munger, Clinton	Stockley, Arthur
Murphy, Lee	Trepasso, Louis
Noxon, Ralph	Tyson, Herold
Nutter, Everett J.	Vanderwarker, Julian
Peattie, Hugh F.	Van Kleeck, Ralph
Potter, Stanley	VerValin, Arthur
Rogers, William	Vought, Glen
Deaman, Edward R.	Vroman, Lyle
Sergeant, Clay E.	Wakeman, Frank J.
Shutts, Harold	Welcher, D. E.
Silvernail, Clayton	White, Tony
Sisson, Leo	Wood, Clyde
Sisson, Paul	Wilbur, Wesley
Smith, Clarence	Yarrio, Mario
Snodgrass, Lloyd	York, Harold
Spencer, Clark	Youmans, Claud
Spindler, Alexander	Youmans, Ray <sup>30</sup>
Stareck, Wm.	

This may not be a complete list, but its accuracy has been checked through various records which have been available. Dr. Joshua Sweet of Pennsylvania University was also in England and France in the Medical Corps.

First to die for his country from our community was Dr. Whitney Hotaling Joyce. Lieutenant Joyce was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Joyce. Dr. Joyce graduated from Albany Medical College, and had located in Morris, N.Y., but had later returned to his home town. He had been in France about six months in the Medical Corps after having spent some time in England in special training for this work. Lieutenant Joyce was the first from Otsego County to die in battle.<sup>31</sup>

Coincidentally, his grandfather, William G. Hotaling, was the last survivor of the G.A.R. He was commander of the C. Siver Post, who held their last reunion on Memorial Day of 1920. "Bompe" Hotaling recorded the fact that he was a member of the 113th New York Volunteer Infantry, afterwards the 7th New York heavy Artillery Regiment, which was formed in New York State on July 7, 1862. They arrived in Washington on August 31, and immediately were placed in defense of that city. In 1864 they joined the Army of the Potomac near Spottsylvania Courthouse, Virginia, and fought many battles

from that period on. He recorded that as they left Washington, to join the Army of the Potomac, on the 19th of May, they had 66 officers and 1,774 men fit for duty. On the 28th of August it had 6 officers and 168 men fit for action. On February 22, 1865, they were ordered to Baltimore where they remained until mustered out in June and August of 1865.<sup>32</sup>

Roy E. Bell also made the supreme sacrifice on October 12, 1918. He was a member of the 27th Division, Co. G, 107th U.S. Infantry, which was assigned to duty with the British and had seen much hard fighting. He enlisted at Oneonta on April 11, 1917, just five days after war was declared on Germany, received his training at Camp Wadsworth, and sailed for France in May. (His brother, who enlisted at the same time, was shot through the right shoulder while under machine gun fire but this wound healed and he was back in service.) Roy Bell was buried in St. Souplet Cemetery in France.<sup>33</sup>

Both of the bodies were brought back and are buried in Unadilla, Private Bell in St. Matthew's Cemetery and Lieutenant Joyce in Evergreen Hill. They were laid to rest with full military honors with members of the Joyce-Bell Post, American Legion, No. 578 acting as honor guard. A memorial service was held in St. Matthew's Church. Reverend Yale Lyon, rector of the church and Chaplain of Joyce-Bell Post, officiated. A squad from Co. G, under the direction of Major John L. Fisher, of Unadilla, N.Y., was also in attendance.

"What could be more fitting than the burial of our heroic soldier dead in the cemeteries of their own village, to keep alive in our minds the memories of the noble boys who quietly and bravely gave up home and friends, and all but life, to fight the war across the sea, and then when it was asked, as quietly and courageously laid down life itself? Dauntless and unafraid, they faced the barbarous hordes and helped to stem the relentless advance and turn defeat into victory. May they rest in peace!"<sup>34</sup>

On the Fourth of July in 1918 a service flag was dedicated and presented to the village by the Unadilla National Bank. At that time, there were 48 stars in the flag, one of them the gold star representing Dr. Whitney Joyce. At 2:30 in the afternoon, a large number of patriotic citizens, men, women and children,

assembled at the high school where the line of march was formed, headed by the Unadilla Band, which was followed by members of the Unadilla branch of the American Red Cross. The ladies formed a red cross with Corporal Leo Sisson as marshal. Then followed: Wells Bridge branch, American Red Cross; Boy Scouts with a large American Flag; Campfire Girls; members of the Liberty Loan Committees; members of G.A.R. in autos furnished for them. "Never in the history of our little village was a day like this observed and it will be a lasting memory to all of us." <sup>35</sup>

The draft lottery lists have been recorded, showing 110 names in Unadilla, with their draft numbers.<sup>36</sup> The military census indicated that there were 534 males and 592 females enrolled in Unadilla. The total for Otsego County was 21,483.<sup>37</sup>

While all the activity was going on in the military service, there was also a great deal of activity on the home front. Patriotic rallies in connection with the Red Cross and with the various war loans were held throughout the village. Francis W. Halsey of New York City spoke at one of these on the subject, "The Great War." This was for the benefit of the Red Cross.<sup>38</sup>

The businessmen and farmers met at the high school for home defense about 1917. This was a meeting called by C. C. Moore, the President of the village, with John M. Hopkins, Supervisor of the Town of Unadilla representing the various committees on preparedness for this town. A committee consisting of the Messrs. Flaesch, Cowles, and Homan was appointed to arrange for the mass meeting which was to be held on Agricultural Mobilization Day. An Executive Committee consisting of the Messrs. Meeker, Seacord, Sweet, Van Cott, York and Pixley, with Mr. Meeker as chairman, were given general charge of the campaigns of preparedness. They considered "it not only a duty but a great privilege to render every assistance possible in carrying out this campaign of local preparedness, for the reason that it is believed by them to be for a great and good cause, the right of the people of all nations, both great and small, to give themselves, as has been so aptly put by our President, to make this world safe for democracies to live in." <sup>39</sup>



On the suggestion of the War Department a Rifle Club was organized, with over 50 in its membership. This entailed no special obligation for war service. "The Government has the right to call on any man of military age regardless of previous training . . . In joining a Government Rifle Club our men are merely getting themselves in good physical condition, learning the use of arms and recognizing the value of discipline, while under no greater obligation to serve in a company than those men who have received no training whatever."<sup>40</sup> Photographs are still in existence showing the marching force of citizens of our town, armed with wooden rifles, as they drilled and marched in this phase of home defense.<sup>41</sup>

The ladies were busy, too, and a local Surgical Dressing Committee, meeting in the Apple Tree Cottage near the Community House made dressings for use in American hospitals and ambulances among the Allies. One week they sent 659 bandages and dressings of various sorts of Headquarters in New York.<sup>42</sup>

Attention had been called to the plight of Belgian children, over a million of whom needed an extra ration a day or they would die of starvation. "The United States has contributed \$.08 per capita to Belgian relief, while Great Britain and Canada have contributed \$.18 per capita, Australia \$1.23 per capita, New Zealand \$1.68 per capita, and Tasmania \$6.83 per capita . . . Think of this, you fathers and mothers of Unadilla. The call comes to us, to every citizen and to every friend of children. A concerted, systematic canvass for this fund will be made by a committee appointed for the purpose during the week following the 4th of March."<sup>43</sup> Subsequent issues of the *Unadilla Times* indicated that Unadilla contributed \$236.17 for the relief of the Belgian children.<sup>44</sup>

The Red Cross was organized with over 200 members. This was a chapter of the Auxiliary of the Red Cross Chapter of Oneonta. Principal C. F. Todd, acting as temporary chairman of the meeting, and Mrs. A. L. Kellogg, acting as chairman of the extension branch, were successful in their campaign. Officers elected were: Mrs. Sweet, Chairman; Mrs. Frank M. Tyson, Vice-chairman; Mrs. Charles Oles, Secretary; Fred Meeker, Treasurer; Executive Committee: Mrs. W. H. Sisson

of Wells Bridge, Miss Minerva Hayes and Mrs. John Van Cott of this village. Headquarters were opened in the North block, where Mrs. S. S. North and Mrs. Yale Lyon very generously offered to serve in that branch of the work.<sup>45</sup>

Mention has already been made of the Liberty Loan work and the success of our community in oversubscribing the total amount of the quotas. The total of the five loans amounted to \$543,250 given by a total of 2,158 Unadillans. The quotas for the same period were \$478,200. One interesting fact is pointed out in this connection. The point worth bringing out into light is this: "While the local Liberty Loan Committee employed the same variety of attractions, rally meetings etc., as did neighboring towns to enthuse people into the bond-buying frame of mind, the total expenses to Uncle Sam were less than \$50 for all five campaigns. Some nearby towns spent several times that amount on a single campaign. Unadilla bought no flags or banners at Government expense."<sup>46</sup> Liberty Loan canvassers included representatives from the various churches: Methodist: Mrs. Frank J. Van Cott, Mrs. William Brown, Miss Rose Burlison; Presbyterian: Mrs. William D. Hanford, Mrs. Fred N. Parsons, Mrs. William Maxwell; Baptist: Mrs. Frank M. Tyson, Mrs. F. O. Belden, Mrs. William Boyd; Episcopalian: Mrs. E. W. Gantt, Miss May Hayes, Miss Levantia Halsey. The village was divided into four sections and because of the various mass meetings, the efforts of the Loan committee, its quota was oversubscribed.<sup>47</sup>

The Red Cross, too went over the top in its drive for funds, \$2500 being raised as our quota one year.<sup>48</sup> Talks on first aid were given in the Red Cross Military Aid courses, being conducted by Dr. White and Dr. B. W. Stearns.<sup>49</sup>

A complete organization of the local United War Work Campaign was set up with representatives of each of the churches and the various fraternal organization of the community. The record of this organization follows:

"Chairman, Hon. Chas. C. Flaesch; Treasurer, F. H. Meeker; Secretary, W. D. Hanford; and the following soliciting committees appointed from the various church societies and fraternal organizations:

"Methodist Episcopal Church: Rev. W. C. Dodge, Mrs. F. J. Van Cott, Mrs. Robert Homan.

"Baptist Church: Rev. G. W. Moore, Mrs. F. S. Davy, Mrs. F. M. Tyson.

"Presbyterian Church: Rev. John Rankin, Mrs. F. N. Parsons, Mrs. A. E. Pixley.

"Roman Catholic Church: Mrs. J. H. Trout, Mrs. Riley Himmelberger, D. J. O'Neill.

"Protestant Episcopal Church: Rev. Yale Lyon, Miss Minerva N. Haynes, Miss Lena E. Sewell.

"I.O.O.F.: C. A. Castle, Hon. L. M. Cowles, J. B. Judson.

"I.O.R.M.: D. H. Crandall, A. J. Fairbank, W. Jay Wilber.

"Masonic Fraternity: Robert Homan, H. Bohn, F. N. Parsons.

"Pocahontas: Mrs. M. S. Cone, Mrs. D. H. Crandall, Mrs. H. R. Oles.

"Maccabees: W. C. Boyd, A. J. Teed, Riley Himmelberger.

"Rebeccas: Miss Lillian Cole, Mrs. R. K. Teller, Mrs. W. D. Hanford.

"Eastern Star: Mrs. H. D. Hanford, Mrs. A. Fluckiger, Mrs. W. D. Hanford.

"Red Cross: Mrs. Charles S. Sweet, Mrs. J. S. Seacord, Mrs. B. M. Pecor.

"Liberty Loan: F. H. Meeker, F. M. Tyson, B. M. Pecor, A. E. Pixley, W. D. Hanford, J. S. Seacord, J. M. Hopkins, Carl Pomeroy, W. H. Sisson.

"Business Men: Fred J. Joyce, F. S. Davy, A. E. Seaman, C. E. DeForest, M. D. York, W. H. Hitt, M. J. Ward, G. A. Frear, A. E. Mallery, W. H. Crooker, Hiram Fisk, H. B. Brion, R. K. Teller, T. H. Morse, G. H. Dibble, J. L. Ingraham, F. J. Van Cott, C. C. Moore, W. J. Toppliff.

"Professional Men: Dr. B. W. Stearns, Dr. S. J. White, Dr. P. G. Clark, Dr. I. J. Whitney, Dr. F. H. Smith.

"Committee of One: Charles S. Sweet.

"Wells Bridge Village: Mrs. Seymour Root, W. H. Sisson, J. J. Youmans." <sup>50</sup>

Wasteless meals were much in order, and an interesting note is found in the *Unadilla Times*: "Let everyone sign the 20 'Wastless Meals' in the Food Conservation cards but in



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signing the 'Wheatless anud Meatless' we must remember the welfare of our local market and grocery stores. The ruin of local trademen is poor patriotism. By trading more in Unadilla and less out of town we insure their prosperity and show our loyal citizenship.—Yale Lyon."<sup>51</sup>

Someone evidently saw a light side to the war, and wrote:

My Tuesdays are meatless,  
My Wednesdays are wheatless,  
I am getting more eatless each day;  
My home it is heatless,  
My bed it is sheetless,  
They're all sent to the Y.M.C.A.;  
The barrooms are treatless,  
My coffee is sweetless,  
Each day I get poorer and wiser;  
My stockings are feetless,  
My trousers are seatless,—  
Good Lord, how I hate the Kaiser."  
—*The Every Evening*, Wilmington, Del.<sup>52</sup>

\* \* \*

On Monday I knit; and on Tuesday I flit  
To a lecture on Food Conservation.  
On Wednesday I sew on pajamas to go  
To the men who must fight for the nation.  
On Thursday, alas! is my Surgical Class,  
And although 'tis the servant's day out,  
Home duties and food should never obtrude  
On a labor so truly devout.  
On Friday I go to a Benefit Show  
For our soldiers at home and afar.  
On Saturday, tired, yet thrilled and inspired,  
I sit through a talk on the War.  
On Sunday, in bed (ice-Bag to my head)  
With a household morose and chaotic,  
Though the children need tending and the stockings  
need mending,  
Thank the Lord I am still patriotic!"—Anon.<sup>53</sup>

There was, however, evidenced a great spirit of sacrifice, and cooperation through this whole period. The citizens of Unadilla

were well aware of the hardships and difficulties of their servicemen and backed them at home in every possible way. A County celebration was held in Oneonta on July 4, 1920 with nearly 800 of the servicemen and women who represented Otsego County in attendance at the grand demonstration given in their honor on July 4. Medals were presented by Judge Kellogg and the address of the day was given by the Hon. James W. Wadsworth, Jr. A parade of county floats was held and to the Unadilla Silo Company went the honor of receiving second prize. They exhibited a miniature silo and along with it a farmyard, horse, Guernsey bull and ewe with lambs. It was designed and made at the Silo Company; W. D. Hanford supervised the construction. Lou Sherwood supplied the artistic handiwork. Mr. Sherwood's unusual abilities have already been discussed.<sup>54</sup>

Immediately following the close of the war, the local post of the American Legion was organized. A meeting was called on September 19, 1920 in the H. Y. Canfield Hose Company rooms. Temporary officers were: Ezra Judd, Chairman; Lieut. Cecil A. Stearns, Secretary; Vanloran Hammond, Treasurer. The petition to the State Secretary was signed by 17 members. The post was named Joyce-Bell Post, after the two from this village who made the supreme sacrifice, Lt. Whitney H. Joyce and Pvt. Harold Bell. Much publicity was given this organization and it soon grew to an active membership of over 60, and it has continued to be a vital force in the affairs of veterans of our community.<sup>55</sup>

About this time there was the proposal that we have in Unadilla a memorial library and Community House. The Liberty Loan Committee was activated again and a survey of existing homes was made. The Elder Sperry residence seemed best adapted to the purpose: "Its location is central; the commodious grounds covering about two and one-fourth acres afford space for a baseball ground, tennis courts and a house is well built and the numerous large rooms are well arranged for library use for assembly and club rooms, and an apartment for the caretaker, without serious alterations. This property has been purchased by the committee, possession to be given September 1, 1920."<sup>56</sup> A special election was held on October 21, 1920

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asking the village taxpayers to approve the purchase of the property and to authorize an annual appropriation of \$2000 for the maintenance of such a library and property. 177 voted in favor of and 64 voted against the proposition.<sup>57</sup> A bronze plaque in the Community House records the names of the contributors to this worthwhile project. The committees in charge of the proposal were:<sup>58</sup>

Local	Out-of-Town
Frederick H. Meeker, Chairman	Frederic A. Halsey, Chairman
Carl Pomeroy, Treasurer	New York City.
Charles C. Flaesch	Henry H. Buckley
William D. Hanford	New York City.
John M. Hopkins	Albert A. LeRoy
Carol Pomeroy	Lakehurst, N.J.
Basil M. Pecor	Frederick T. Sherman
Alfred E. Pixley	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Jerome S. Seacord	Arnold W. Sherman
William H. Sisson	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Frank M. Tyson	

The Community House has become one of the fine enterprises of our community. It contains the public library, to which were denoted over a thousand volumes from the Francis W. Halsey estate and numerous other memorial contributions from the library of Rev. Polhemus and others.

We should also record the passing in this decade of several prominent citizens. John W. Van Cott died in 1915. Since December 1, 1892 he had been associated in business with his son, Frank J. Van Cott, and they had conducted a feed and lumber business in Unadilla for many years. John W. Van Cott was a man of highest integrity and had been a delegate in 1908 to the Methodist General Conference in Baltimore. After his death his son, Frank Van Cott carried on the business, and J. W. Van Cott & Son, Inc. was chartered by the state in 1919. At that time, they purchased the Hanford Wagon Works on Clifton Street, and have continued to carry on their lumber and building materials business in this same location.

In 1911 S. S. North died. Samuel Shaw North was the senior member of the well-known banking house of North and Company. He died when 57 years of age. He was the second



son of Col. Samuel North, long one of the most prominent men in this section and active in the Democratic party for many years. On the death of his brother, Thomas G. North, he succeeded to the management of the bank and had been a partner. When the water system of Unadilla was commenced, Samuel North also took over that project. He was instrumental with the assistance of townsmen in the construction of an electric light plant which was built.<sup>59</sup> There is a report which has been received by our local committee that Unadilla was the first community of its size to have electric lights and more information is recorded in a subsequent chapter.

In 1912, H. Y. Canfield died. He too, was one of Unadilla's prominent and well known citizens. Henry Y. Canfield came to Unadilla in the late 1800's from New York City where he had established one of the largest individual milk businesses in the city. Unadilla was the site of one of his milk stations to supply his city plant. Here in Unadilla he started the condensery where the first condensed milk was made. He also operated the grist mill and saw mill on Mill Street, where the present York plant is located.

Mr. Canfield, always one who was vitally interested in our community, started an electric light plant in the present brick building of the York plant. Later he was instrumental in organizing the Standard Light Heat and Power Company with its plant located on Route No. 7 near the Sheep Pen Creek. This plant supplied electricity for Unadilla, Sidney and Bainbridge.

The White Mansion on top of the hill, east of Unadilla, was erected by H. Y. Canfield and was known as Cam de Philo. It was since been named Tianaderrah by its late owner, George Le Pine. Years ago, summer guests from New York spent their vacations with Mr. Canfield and one of the great sights of the summer was the fireworks display on Cam de Philo.

The H. Y. Canfield Hose house was built and donated by Mr. Canfield to the company. This building has since been sold to S. A. Lord after our new fire house was built. Mr. Canfield died before World War I in New York City where he went for the winter. The Condensery was sold and eventually all milk plants in Unadilla were abandoned. South Unadilla located

on the N. Y. O. & W. became obsolete as milk was no longer shipped from there.

Mention should be made of the Ontio on the side of Blue Mountain, 250 feet above the Susquehanna Valley. It had accommodations for over 100 guests, with drawing rooms, reception halls, dining rooms and sleeping accommodations. The rates as advertised were: "Rooms to be occupied by one person, \$13-\$22 a week; \$3 per day . . . It will be kept as a quiet, strictly temperance resting-place . . . Visitors are not expected to arrive or depart on the Sabbath." <sup>60</sup> For many years it was conducted by Mr. Albert LeRoy.

The Tie Factory on Clifton Street owned by M. J. Ward was destroyed by fire, but considerable materials were saved and they resumed operations a short time later in the Wagon Works building. <sup>61</sup> Later it moved to other locations in Unadilla as mentioned in other chapters.

Attention should be called to the fact that Unadilla has been very fortunate in its inventive genius. At least three citizens come to mind. Abram Oles has conducted a machine shop for his life time, and as this was written he was 98 years old. His death came in 1953. Marzy J. Ward, father of Dr. Lee Ward invented the device produced by the Tie Company which he owned, and is the second member of this illustrious group. The third was Frank J. Van Cott, the son of John W. Van Cott. These three men all have demonstrated the very unusual ability which they had in making possible time and labor-saving devices. None of the three had the advantage of specialized education, but when they were faced with a problem, they worked out the device or machine which would produce the desired effect. Men like Edison and Henry Ford have received worldwide acclaim, but here in Unadilla we had three men of similar talents who were able to produce devices and machines for their particular businesses that were remarkable.

The Unadilla Silo Company, which has become the principal industry of Unadilla in point of number of employees and volume of business, is the direct result of the inventive work of Frank J. Van Cott. The story is told that in the early 1900's he was engaged in the lumber business. He took an order for the manufacture of silo staves of 2x6 hemlock. After accumulat-

ing practically a million feet of this material, the silo company from whom he had received the order, refused to accept it on some technical grounds. With this quantity of silo material on hand, Mr. Van Cott devised the door front system which he patented and which became one of the strong selling features of the Unadilla Silo. That company was begun in 1906 and incorporated in 1909 and has enjoyed a splendid reputation and business in the community and, in fact, in Northeastern United States.

During this decade, an announcement was made of a new kitchen knife designed by A. D. Oles & Son: "The blade is more flexible than others, is more of a trowel form in shape and the handle extends out from the center instead of being hung to one side, making it much easier to turn griddle cakes, etc., or removing cookies from tins or other food from spiders. This invention makes Unadilla the home of three such implements." <sup>62</sup> Mention should here be made of R. K. Teller who also had inventive talent and who made a Teller knife.

It also marked the 40th year in business for Tracy H. Morse, who came to Unadilla in 1871 and started in with Mr. Woodruff in the tailoring business. For a time, they occupied the shop next to the St. Matthew's church, the shop being owned at that time by Ansel Williams, but later Woodruff's shop was in the North block (on lower Main Street). Mr. Morse had customers far and wide, and for some of them he had made clothes when they were small boys. His note in the paper marking the 40th year in business expresses his gratitude for their continued patronage. <sup>63</sup>

Frank M. Tyson became a candidate on the Democratic ticket for assemblyman. He had worked for his father-in-law in the milk business in New York City, but prior to the time that Mr. Canfield sold his business, Mr. Tyson came to Unadilla and took charge of a coal and feed business which he conducted until the time of his death. <sup>64</sup>

Mr. Jerome Seacord became a candidate for District Attorney in Otsego County. Mr. Seacord was born in Bainbridge April 2, 1870, and was admitted to the Bar in 1891. <sup>65</sup> He had practiced law in Unadilla ever since that time. We should note in passing that Mr. Seacord has only recently retired from



his active practice of law, and has rendered a very faithful service to Unadilla and its citizens throughout his lifetime. He was a man whose quiet acts of service and help have meant much to many people. His death occurred in August, 1956.

On the 17th of July, 1919, Mary Ann Lloyd celebrated her 100th birthday. She was born in England and came to this country in 1830 with her mother and 7 brothers and sisters. The father had preceded his family a few months and had purchased a farm in Middlefield near Cherry Valley and there built his new home, awaiting the arrival of his family. On March 2, 1843, she married Samuel Lloyd of Unadilla. "Afterward they bought the farm and built the mills now owned by Berray & Benedict, where she passed the greater part of her married life; and in 1870 built the mill now known as Lloyd's Mills, at East Sidney."<sup>66</sup> (This is near the site of the present East Sidney Dam, constructed by the U.S. Army Engineers as a part of flood control and completed in 1951.) Mrs. Lloyd was a very remarkable woman for having passed the century mark. Her sight and hearing were excellent for her age; her mind well preserved. She delighted in telling of her early days in England; the English dairy farm her father kept and the remembrance of the early days in Otsego County were deeply interesting, as these were the days of the pioneers. "It is wonderful to note how clear in her mind is the eventful journey of nearly ninety years ago from her home in England to the hills of Otsego County, when they sailed from Liverpool on the good ship 'Minerva,' that for nearly five weeks was tossed and storm-driven on the broad Atlantic before it safely entered the harbor of New York, and how each family on the ship brought aboard at Liverpool their bedding and food supplies, including a round of salt beef to last for the voyage; and how each family did their own cooking on the 'galley stoves,' and the cautious captain who was ever on the alert to prevent fire on board his ship, watched the smudge stew kettles for sparks when carried below, for gunpowder was in the 'Minerva's' cargo; the trip up the Hudson in a tow boat to Albany, and then in a canal boat through the then recently built Erie Canal, to Fort Plain, and the last of the journey with her father's teams to their new home at Middlefield.

"And this is as vivid in her memory as if she had lived those days but a fortnight ago.

"It is indeed interesting that she saw in her early life the pioneer days, when the forests were cut, the land cleared, and in middle-life small hamlets spring up in the valleys which in old age have grown to cities with their thousands.

"It is indeed interesting, in fact remarkable, to briefly note a few of the historic events during her lifetime. She was born the same year as was the beloved British Queen Victoria, the year that Florida was purchased from Spain (1819). At the time of her birth, George III was on the English throne, and James Monroe, the fifth President, was serving his first term. The Erie Canal was not built and railroads were unknown. The Union had but twenty-two states. During her life every President of the United States has lived except Washington and twenty-four have entered the White House to serve their terms. Six sovereigns of the British Empire have come and passed away, save the present George IV, and Napoleon was a military prisoner on St. Helena when she was a child.

"Her life has spanned the breadth of a century that perhaps few persons have lived—the years of a period of so great national progression. From the forest trail to the State road; the stage coach to the aeroplane; the wooden sailing ship to the modern liner; the spinning wheel to the great textile mills; the tallow dip to the electric lights—all these and more in her lifetime." <sup>67</sup>

Unadilla also had another centenarian, for on the 25th of June, 1915, Mrs. Harriet K. Luther celebrated her 100th anniversary. She was born just one week after the battle of Waterloo was fought and won. She had resided in the same family home about midway between Unadilla and Sidney for 91 years. The same roof that sheltered her when a girl of 9 years also witnessed her growth into womanhood and venerable old age. The world has moved on, but the old house, surrounded by lovely maples, remained. The house itself was built somewhat earlier. American soldiers were drafted there in 1812 for the war with England. An old hotel building called the Halfway House on the same side of the state road was built about the time George Washington was first elected President. This was still

used as a residence until it burned about October 1925. As this chapter is being written, both of these old landmarks have been destroyed.<sup>68</sup>

Another old property in the Town of Unadilla was the Sidney Inn in the Riverside section of Sidney. This was built in 1795, and is the property now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Philip Buker. For many years it was owned by a James Bundy and it came to be known as the Bundy house. James DeCalvin built this old rambling inn about the year 1795 on the old Catskill Turnpike in its western section to Ithaca in what is now the Riverside section of Sidney, but then called Sidney Plains. "Up to the doorway of this inn clattered the stage coaches to unload passengers who would spend the night within the portals of a hostelry which enjoyed the patronage of the finest class of travelers. It had the unique reputation in those days of never having contained a bar.

"In front of the old house still stands the old well, noted for its fine, cold water. This old well is one of few left in this part of the country.

"The beautiful old structure is famed not only for its great age but for its many lovely fireplaces and the exquisitely carved wood work which is in a fine state of preservation.

"On the second floor of the old inn was a ball-room in which lovely ladies in hoop-skirts gracefully danced the minuet with their beaux. Violins sang softly, and, no doubt, a spinet tinkled as the feet of the ancestors of many of the present residents of Sidney glided over the floor in the stately dances of those early days.

"The young people of the surrounding districts held their parties in the old inn, and probably the old house still remembers when the notes of jolly laughter of many young girls and boys rang through its lovely rooms.

"In the early 1830's, the inn was owned by Capt. Andrew Mann. Between the years 1832 and 1834 there was a great rush of settlers from this vicinity to the West, as Michigan was then called. It was about that time that the old inn really came into prominence for it was from this hostelry that Captain Mann set forth with a colony of settlers, some of whom were members of the old pioneer families of Levi Baxter, Dr. Sibley



and Capt. Joseph Lord, to migrate to Michigan in covered wagons and settle there. Many other members of these same old families were buried in the historic old cemetery at Sidney.

"There are many gaps in the records regarding the owners of this house down through the years. The next known owner after Captain Mann was Lewis Peak, and at the time of his ownership and to the present date, the old house has never served as an inn. Mr. Peak owned it in the 1860's.

"Some time later the house passed into the hands of the man by whose name it is now called, James Bundy. Still later it is said to have been owned by a man named Sherwood, but at present it is in the possession of Bruce Lakin." <sup>69</sup> (From an article in 1935.)

The International Order of Red Men celebrated its 33rd anniversary of Unadilla Tribe No. 76 with a large gathering in which over 300 attended. They were addressed by the Grand Sachem, Harry W. Sherman, of Rochester.<sup>70</sup>

The second annual banquet of the Men's Club was held at the Presbyterian Church with addresses by: Mr. James K. McNeillie, Superintendent of Susquehanna Division, of the D & H; Hon. Cyrus W. Phillips, State Industrial Commissioner; Hon. James M. Lynch, State Industrial Commissioner; Hon. Francis M. Hugo, Secretary of State; and Hon. Harry C. Walker, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York. This was on May 13, 1920, and the committee in charge were Albert L. Gates, William Dickson, Harry D. Arbuskle, Burton L. Hitt, Fred N. Parsons, Royal L. N. Neufeld, Marzy J. Ward, Alfred E. Pixley, Herbert Strait, Rufus K. Teller, John M. Hopkins, Albert E. Seaman, Charles C. Flaesch, and William D. Handford.<sup>71</sup>

During this decade we lost many village citizens. In 1911, Milo B. Gregory died. He had been a resident of this vicinity for nearly 80 years. He was born in Unadilla Center in 1832. He was employed by Watson and Hayes in what was known as the "old brick store," at fifteen years of age. Later, he went into partnership with L. L. Woodruff, and for himself conducted a general store in the old Fellows block. In 1857, he married Elizabeth Fellows daughter of Major C. D. and Caroline B. Fellows. There were 8 brothers and sisters in Mr.

Gregory's family, and at the time of his death only one sister survived him. He was one of the organizers of the first Unadilla band; supervisor of the town; postmaster for two terms under President Cleveland.<sup>72</sup>

George B. Fellows attended the old Unadilla Academy and became an editor of the *Unadilla Times*; in fact, he founded the paper. He served as a member of the Otsego County Board of Supervisors and held various offices of trust and responsibility. He was a member of Brigadier General Bassett's staff of the National Guard of the State of New York, ranking as captain and major respectively. He was either Secretary or Treasurer of the old Union Agricultural Society of Unadilla and Sidney for a number of years. He had gained prominence in Masonic circles, and had served as District Deputy Grand Master of the old Otsego and Delaware Districts. For nearly 28 years he had been connected with the New York State Department of Agriculture, having been appointed agent by the first Commissioner, Joshua K. Brown. His death occurred in 1911.<sup>73</sup>

Marshall Robinson died on October 4, 1912. For 45 years he had been identified with the mercantile interests. He was a native of Walton having been born there on August 27, 1845, but when he was 22 he came to Unadilla and entered the employ of Emory & Bailey. Four years later, he purchased the interest of the senior member of the firm and thereafter, for 11 years, the business was carried on under the firm name of Bailey & Robinson. They sustained a heavy loss in the big fire of May 10, 1879. Upon the ruins of the destroyed business section, the firm built a substantial block of brick and Mr. Robinson began the sole ownership of the business in 1881. He married Miss Elizabeth Cook of Sidney and Mrs. Robinson survived him, for many years living in the family homestead, the first house below the Presbyterian Church on Main Street.<sup>74</sup>

In 1913, Edward J. Buckley passed away at the age of 66 years. He spent most of his life at Unadilla Center, as had his grandfather and father before him. He had been employed by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad; coming home from the South, he met and married Rebecca I. Estes and they took up their residence on the Buckley farm at Unadilla Center. This

farm has been a part of the old Buckley patent of several thousand acres which was granted to Billy Buckley, Esq., and John, his son, in the latter part of the 18th century. The funeral was held from St. Matthew's; interment was in Unadilla Center.<sup>75</sup>

Cyrus G. Seaman died in 1914. He was born in Butternuts on October 24, 1831; had resided in this village for 53 years. He was a stone mason by trade, and was survived by his widow, Hester, and their son, Fred D. Seaman.<sup>76</sup>

James Frederick Sands, who had been in charge of the North & Co. bank of this village during the last years of his life, died very suddenly on June 10, 1915. He had moved to Unadilla when a small boy and had spent the greater part of his life here, going to Binghamton, where he had business interests.<sup>77</sup>

Daniel H. Loomis, another well known and prominent resident, died at Unadilla House in September of 1916. He was born on June 1, 1864, in Unadilla, the son of Senator and Mrs. David P. Loomis. He lived his entire life in this village, attending the Union School and Academy, from which he was graduated. He was employed by North & Co., and had been superintendent of the water works for many years. He was married to Miss Belle Tingley, June 18, 1891, and was survived by his wife and son, Barlow T. Loomis.<sup>78</sup>

Frederick Taylor Sherman, Sr., who was born in New Haven, Connecticut, died in Brooklyn in 1916. In 1872 he married Susan Hayes Watson, daughter of Arnold Watson of Unadilla. Burial was in Brooklyn, after the funeral at St. Matthew's.<sup>79</sup>

S. Horace Chapin, President of the Unadilla National Bank, died in this village November 3, 1916. He was born at the Chapin homestead near this village on September 25, 1858. He had spent his entire life in this village; had been interested in the feed and lumber business; conducted a shoe store under the firm name of Chapin & Heimer and in 1909 was elected President of the Unadilla National Bank. He had been President of the Board of Education; President of the village; and had been very active in community life.<sup>80</sup>

Mrs. Charles Bishop, who was the daughter of John and



Mary Cummings; born in Connorsville June 17, 1846; died at the Hotel Bishop in 1916. She married Charles Bishop, the proprietor, in January of 1870 and operated the hotel after his death, assisted by her son, Charles.<sup>81</sup>

Mrs. Albert H. Sewell, the wife of the former Supreme Court Justice, died in 1919. She was Mary Elizabeth Wright, and had one brother, George Wright, who lived in Unadilla.<sup>82</sup>

Miss Rose Hardy died at her home on east Main Street in 1919. She had resided with her sister in a small home by the banks of the river just below the upper bridge and many of us can remember the small home that was hers.<sup>83</sup>

Wesley Mulford died in 1920 at the age of 88. He was the senior member of the firm of Mulford & Son, cigar makers. He was a trustee of the Methodist church for many years. His other offices included trustee of the Unadilla Academy and postmaster for 16 years. He was a staunch Republican and had resided in Unadilla since 1858.<sup>84</sup>

Mention should also be made of the deaths of Chester H. Belknap, Caroline Eells Belknap, L. Thomas Hubbell, L. G. Peck, Horace Leach, Dr. A. J. Butler, Frederick L. Cone, and William B. Stewart.

We should not leave the decade without making mention of the fact that Francis Whiting Halsey also died October, 1919. Dr. Nicholas of Holy Trinity Church in New York City, concluded his remarks at the funeral by saying:

"Of no one are these great Christian truths about Immortality more real, as you know, than of our friend, Francis Whiting Halsey. Ancestry, Education, Culture, Consecration of Gifts, Friendships, were the marks of his life. Master of Literature, of History, of Style, with strong personal affection, he passes on and up, ripening more and more into the Eternal Day."<sup>85</sup>

Mr. Halsey was the most distinguished historian of Unadilla. He graduated from Cornell and began to edit a morning paper in Binghamton at the age of 22, in the year 1873. At the home of his father, a country doctor, he passed through the boyhood period of reading and was an ardent admirer of Hawthorne, Irving, Cooper, Jane Austin and Walter Scott. In 1875 he joined the staff of the New York *Tribune* and in 1880 he went to the New York *Times*, in 1894 becoming its

literary editor. *The Book Review* was founded in 1896 by him and Mr. Halsey edited it from its first number, printed on Saturday, October 10, until June of 1902, when he became literary advisor to D. Appleton & Co. In 1905 he was attached to the firm of Funk and Wagnall in a similar capacity, and died when compiling a voluminous history of the war. Walter Littlefield wrote of him: "His formative influence, both journalistic and literary, and his subsequent experience in these fields fitted him to carry THE BOOK REVIEW in triumphant progress through the flood of books which was to follow. . . . A paraphrase of The *Times* motto, "all the News that's Fit to Print" would have described THE BOOK REVIEW: "All the Books that are Fit to Read." . . . His lectures, for he lectured before many literary organizations of earnest, thoughtful people, were a reflection of his work as editor and author. Long before he died his judgment of what was fitting had been demonstrated by its survival. He was a modest yet powerful influence with THE BOOK REVIEW in keeping the writing and publication of books on the right track during one of the most turbulent and prolific periods of authorship. As for the rest, his inspiring notes, though never very loud, were the thoughtful products of a thoughtful man. He had the gift of being wholesome without being prudish, well read without being priggish. He loved his friends as he did his books, and his love for both endured." <sup>86</sup>

A New York paper had this to say: "Mr. Halsey was well known as a lecturer, having lectured before New York and New Jersey historical societies, students of Columbia and Princeton, on the Chautauqua platform and before many other bodies.

"He was the author of a number of books, including *Two Months Abroad* which appeared in 1878. In 1895 he wrote an extended introduction for a volume of family history, entitled *Thomas Halsey of Hertfordshire, England, and Southampton, Long Island*. He later wrote an *Old New York Frontier: Its Indian Wars, Pioneers and Land Titles*, being an account of the early history of the headwaters of the Susquehanna from Otsego Lake to the Pennsylvania Line. Other works included *Our Literary Deluge*, *The Pioneers of Unadilla Village*, also a historical and biographical introduction to Mrs. Rowson's

*Charlotte Temple*, and historical introduction and foot notes to Richard Smith's *Tour of Four Great Rivers*. In 1900 he wrote a memoir to his wife, under the title of her maiden name. *Virginia Isabel Forbes*. Mr. Halsey was married in 1883, his wife being a daughter of Alexander S. Forbes of New York, and she died in January, 1899.

"Mr. Halsey was a trustee of the New York State Historical Association and American Scenic Society and a member of the American Historical Association, New York State Library Association, Century, Authors, National Arts, and Cornell University Clubs, being President of the latter in 1882."<sup>87</sup>

Unadilla lost one of its most distinguished citizens in his death, and his contribution of historical data and information will be long remembered by all who begin any research on Unadilla History and folklore.

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## FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 4

1. Letter from Wayne Tyson to Walter L. Hunt, August 8, 1952.
2. Yale Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 9., January, 1936 to September 1, 1940, p. 237, "Large Elm Tree on Adams Street Guaranteed Middle of Road for Life."
3. "Unadilla, Place of Meeting," written by Miss Frances Freeman for 5th grade of U.C.S.
4. Crooker, *Scrapbook*. "The Old Grist Mill at Crookerville and its Surroundings." Taken from *Unadilla Times*.
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*
7. Yale Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 5, May 9, 1921 to June 21, 1923, p. 189, "The Young American."
8. *Ibid.*
9. Crooker, *Scrapbook*, "Fine Property Sold."
10. *Ibid.*, "Woman's Club Entertains."
11. Yale Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 2, Lent, 1914 to September, 1916, p. 51.
12. *Ibid.*, p. 63, "Early days in Unadilla." (pageant)
13. *Ibid.*, p. 82, "Pageant Seen on River Bank."
14. *Ibid.*, p. 87, "Fourth of July."
15. *Ibid.*, p. 102, "River Fete a Success."
16. *Ibid.*, Vol. 4, March, 1919 to May 9, 1921, p. 72, "Venetian Fete at Unadilla."
17. *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, Lent, 1914 to September, 1916, p. DEF, "16th Annual Alumni Banquet."
18. *Ibid.*, Vol. 1, July, 1910 to March, 1914, p. 116, "Some of the Latest Dances."



19. *Ibid.*, p. 12.
20. *Ibid.*, p. 72, "Yes, 178; no, 9."
21. Frederick Meeker, *Scrapbook*, p. 44, "Curbing Tax."
22. Charles C. Flaesch, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 1, p. 22.
23. *Ibid.*, p. 24.
24. *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10.
25. *Ibid.*
26. Yale Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 3, September, 1916 to March, 1919, p. viii, "Message Rushed Through Unadilla."
27. *Ibid.*, p. xviii, "Milk War Ended."
28. *Ibid.*, p. 69, "20 Years Ago."
29. Charles C. Flaesch, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 1, p. 128, "V Loan Oversubscribed."
30. Yale Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 4, March, 1919 to May 9, 1921, p. 17, List of Names; Vol. 3, September, 1916 to March, 1919, p. 153, List of Names; p. 43, "Recent Enlistments"; p. 41, "Our Honor Roll"; p. 90, List of Names.
31. *Ibid.*, p. 130, "First to Die for His Country."
32. *Ibid.*, Vol. 4, March, 1919 to May 9, 1921, p. 129, "History of 7th New York Heavy Artillery Reg."
33. *Ibid.*, Vol. 3, September, 1916 to March, 1919, p. 178, "Killed in Action—Roy E. Bell."
34. *Ibid.*, Vol. 4, March, 1919 to May 9, 1921, p. 160, "Unadilla Pays Final Tribute to Soldiers."
35. *Ibid.*, Vol. 3, September, 1916 to March, 1919, p. 145, "Service Flag Dedicated Fourth of July."
36. *Ibid.*, September, 1915 to March, 1919, p. 55, "Enrollment List."
37. *Ibid.*, p. 44, "Military Census Complete."
38. *Ibid.*, p. 56, "Patriotic Rally."
39. *Ibid.*, p. 28, "Businessmen and Farmers Meet at School for Home Defense."
40. *Ibid.*, September, 1916 to March, 1919, p. 25, "Rifle Club to Be Organized."
41. *Ibid.*, photos.
42. *Ibid.*, p. 4, "659 Bandages Sent to Hospitals."
43. *Ibid.*, p. 22, "The Belgian Peril."
44. *Ibid.*, p. 24, "Secretary's Report."
45. *Ibid.*, p. 46, "Organize Red Cross."
46. *Ibid.*, Vol. 4, March, 1919 to May 9, 1921, p. xiii, "V Loan Oversubscribed."
47. *Ibid.*, p. 66.
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52. Crooker, *Scrapbook*, "Timely Verse."
53. Yale Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 3, September, 1916 to March, 1919, p. 194, "Patriotic Poem."
54. *Ibid.*, Vol. 4, March, 1919 to May 9, 1921, p. 10, "County War Heroes Honored."
55. *Ibid.*, p. 23, "Local Post American Legion Organized."
56. *Ibid.*, p. 75, "Proposed Unadilla Memorial Library and Community House."
57. *Ibid.*, p. 113, "The Gift Accepted."
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59. Charles C. Flaesch, *Scrapbook*, p. 81, Vol. 1.
60. Yale Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 1, July, 1910 to March, 1914, p. 9, "The Ontio."
61. *Ibid.*, Vol. 3, September, 1916 to March, 1919, p. 187, "Tie Factory Burned."

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62. *Ibid.*, Vol. 1, July, 1910 to March, 1914, p. 75, "Design a Kitchen Knife."
63. *Ibid.*, Vol. 4, March, 1919 to May 9, 1921, p. 81, "49 Years in Business."
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67. *Ibid.*
68. *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, Lent, 1914 to September, 1916, p. 89.
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73. *Ibid.*, p. 84.
74. *Ibid.*, p. 105.
75. *Ibid.*, p. 170.
76. *Ibid.*, p. 56.
77. *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, Lent, 1914 to September, 1916, p. 87.
78. *Ibid.*, Vol. 3, September, 1916 to March, 1919, p. x.
79. *Ibid.*, p. xi.
80. *Ibid.*, p. 2.
81. *Ibid.*, p. 20.
82. *Ibid.*, Vol. 4, March, 1919 to May 9, 1921, p. 54.
83. *Ibid.*, p. 83.
84. *Ibid.*, p. 144.
85. *Ibid.*, p. 47, "Dr. Nichols of Holy Trinity at Halsey's Funeral."
86. *Ibid.*, p. 39.
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## CHAPTER 5

### Changes in Industry

ONE of the striking facts that comes to even a casual historian is the element of change. Nowhere is this more evident than in the industrial picture of our town. The distant past covered in Halsey's book and Spafford's writing tells of a quarry for grindstones, 16 sawmills preparing large quantities of lumber to be floated by rafts down to Baltimore, five grain mills, an oil mill, five distilleries, and these in addition to the private industry of the period when each family made its own clothing, shoes, produced, processed and baked its own food-stuffs. In these days of super markets, quick-freeze, and modern transportation, what a change has been made.

Someone has recalled that back in the glorious days of Athens and Greek history there was a small city-state of Attica where democracy flowered. Each citizen of the city-state could cast his vote within a day's journey. Thus, every citizen took his share of responsibility for the government of the city. Today, in our own country, there is no place that is not within a day's journey of our capital, Washington, D.C., and the development of transportation within the past century, largely within the past 50 years, has been one of the most remarkable in history.

Since the time that horses were used for transportation and the development of the wheel for carts, there had been no major change in land transportation. Now within this brief period, the development of the steam engine in locomotives and steam ships has taken place. The gas engine in automobiles and airplanes have brought us new neighbors, new advantages and privileges, new responsibilities and problems and a new understanding of the brotherhood and interdependence of all peoples.

So we note some of the changes that have come to Unadilla. The turnpike development was displaced by cheaper travel through canals, the Chenango being the closest to us. These were displaced by the railroads, still a major factor in our



industrial situation, but facing major change through the development of good roads, trucks and trailers, buses and air transportation of merchandise.

Let's look at the railroad for a moment. Mr. Charles House, Susquehanna Division, Superintendent of the Delaware & Hudson, at a talk before the Unadilla Rotary Club in October, 1952, gave these interesting facts. It was incorporated on April 23, 1823, by a special act of the New York Legislature as "the President, managers, and company of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company," empowering them to open water communication between the Delaware and Hudson Rivers, to purchase coal lands and transport "stove coal" or "black stones" as it was then called, now known as Anthracite. Five years later, on October 16, 1828, the Delaware & Hudson Canal was completed from Honesdale, Pennsylvania, to Roundout, New York. This canal "was 108 miles long, 32 to 36 feet wide at the water line, 20 feet wide at the bottom and 4 feet deep. It was carried across the Roundout River on a stone aqueduct, supported by two arches and across other streams by wooden trucks on stone piers and abutments and across the Delaware River by means of a dam and slack water and it was spanned by 137 bridges. There were 110 locks, having lifts ranging from 8 to 10 feet, in order to lift the boats from tidewater at Roundout to the elevation of 972 feet at Honesdale.

#### "FIRST COAL MOVEMENT ON CANAL"

"On December 5, 1828, ten boats carrying ten tons each moved from Honesdale to Roundout and thence to New York City and it was sold in New York for \$8.00 a long ton. The only means of transportation from the mines at Carbondale to Honesdale was by horse-drawn carts holding about one ton and requiring three days each for the trip which was much too slow and expensive for profitable operation and plans were made for hauling the coal to Honesdale by other means.

#### "EARLY RAILROADS IN THE COUNTRY"

"At this time, there was no railroad in the country in excess of 10 miles in length. The rail in use was timber, capped with iron plates. Cars drawn by horses to connect the mines at

Carbondale with the Canal at Honesdale, the Moosic Mountain, with an elevation of 858 feet above Carbondale, had to be crossed. The use of horse power was out of the question.

### "STEAM LOCOMOTIVES"

"Steam locomotives had been operated in England with some success and during the building of the Delaware and Hudson Canal, an engineer named Horatio Allen was commissioned to go to England and purchase a steam locomotive capable of hauling cars of coal between Carbondale and Honesdale. At Stourbridge, England, a locomotive was purchased, called the "Stourbridge Lion," and sent to this country, arriving at Roundout July 3, 1829, and on August 8, 1829, the first trip in America of a steam locomotive was made on a railroad. This engine running three miles from the starting point and returning. After this trip, it was found that the rails were of insufficient strength to bear the weight of the locomotive and it was stored alongside the track until 1849 when it was taken to Carbondale and the boiler put in use in the Carbondale shops.

### "GRAVITY RAILROAD"

"Crossing of the Moosic Mountain was finally accomplished by a series of 5 inclined planes, rising one foot in each 12 feet of length with level stretches between the planes. The level track totaled about 11 miles in length. There were interesting and lengthy discussions as to whether or not to use rope or chains to pull the cars up the inclines. It finally was decided to use stationary steam power to furnish the required energy for this task. These inclined planes, or as it was called, 'The Gravity Railroad,' was extended South as coal lands were gradually acquired and reached Wilkes-Barre, December 1, 1868. With the acquisition of more coal-bearing lands and increased mining, the managers looked further for markets to the North and West. The width and depth of the canal was increased to accommodate heavier loading and larger barges, holding as much as 30 tons, but it was found that production was still increasing to an extent that this means of transportation would not take care of it and other means of transportation was

sought. (The canal and the Gravity Railroad were abandoned for steam power in 1899.)

### "ALBANY AND SUSQUEHANNA"

"In the meantime, April 19, 1851, a railroad called 'The Albany and Susquehanna' had been chartered, the stock subscribed for by wealthy citizens of Albany and the villages and towns that were chiefly concerned with the railroad, and was opened for traffic, Albany to Central Bridge, on September 16, 1863; to Cobleskill, January 2, 1865; to Richmondville, June 1, 1865; to Worcester, July 17, 1865; to Schenevus, August 7, 1865; to Oneonta, August 28, 1865, and completed to Binghamton, January 14, 1869. To avoid the necessity for using the Erie Railroad track from Jefferson Junction to Binghamton, the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company constructed a line from Jefferson Junction to Nineveh which was completed June 17, 1872, and connected with the Albany and Susquehanna at Nineveh, giving ingress into the Susquehanna Valley and Albany and adjoining towns for their coal.

### "STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL— ALBANY & SUSQUEHANNA"

"In the year 1869 the Erie Railroad was under the Treasurership of Daniel Drew. Drew was a former drover who had his men purchase cattle in upstate New York and drive them to New York City, instructing them under no circumstances were they to feed or water the cattle when they arrived two days out of New York, and give them no food but fill them up with all the water they would hold just before bringing them to market. From this the phrase "watered stock" originated. In June, 1869, Jay Gould and James Fisk, having secured control of the Erie Railroad by driving Daniel Drew from his treasurership and compelling Commodore Vanderbilt to abandon his effort to control its management, now turned to the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad as an important element in their plans to extend their operations and make themselves an indispensable medium between producers and consumers. There then ensued a struggle for control between President Ramsey and his of-



ficers and Gould and Fisk with battles of proxies and injunctions, together with combat at a point near Bainbridge, and also near the tunnel, 15 miles from Binghamton, finally resulting in defeat for Gould and Fisk, although the militia finally had to be called to quell the riots.

### "LEASE OF ALBANY & SUSQUEHANNA"

"On February 24, 1870, the Albany & Susquehanna was leased, in perpetuity, to the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company and a third rail was laid, Nineveh to Albany, to accommodate Delaware and Hudson Canal Company engines and cars which had a gauge, as at present, of four feet, eight and one-half inches, while the original gauge of the Albany & Susquehanna and the Erie Railroad was six feet. Later, the outside rail was removed and the standard gauge of four feet, eight and one-half inches prevailed . . ." <sup>1</sup>

Today, passenger service is curtailed; mail is transported by a new highway post office instituted on the Albany to Binghamton run in the fall of 1952; buses and private cars take most of the travelers; diesels are replacing the big 1500 series of locomotives; change continues its progress and development.

What of the tanneries? These were once important elements in the process of lumbering with hemlock bark, manufacturing of hides into leather for shoes, and by-products of hair for plastering, etc. We have noted the advertisement of Eells Tannery in the paper published in Sidneyville in 1859. Miss Anna Eells, long a resident of the community, has written a very interesting article concerning these as follows:

"Following the Revolution, white settlers quickly took up land in the upper Delaware and Susquehanna valleys. Their first need was a sawmill and grist mill. Water provided the power for these mills and often they were the center around which a frontier village sprang up. In this, Unadilla was no exception. By 1796, or earlier, Daniel Bissell had a sawmill where the York Modern Corporation now stands.

"The same facts are true of tanning. An abundant source of water is necessary and water power is also needed. In 1812, John Eells built the first tannery in Unadilla. It stood on land back of the Van Cott Lumber Company's yards, where many

springs furnish water. The stream that flows under Saint Ambrose Church—now only a rivulet—was then of volume great enough to give necessary power.

“Here he manufactured leather of various grades—from stout cowhide for men’s boots to soft buckskin for the lady’s shoes. Usually he was paid for the tanning only. In those days everybody kept a supply of leather on hand for the itinerant shoemaker to use when he paid each family an annual visit to make up the year’s supply of shoes.

“In 1847 that tannery was discontinued, for John Eells and his son, Horace B. Eells, had formed a partnership and had bought the stone building that Noble and Hayes had formerly used for a distillery. It stood on the old Butternuts hill road above the house where Harold Georgia now lives. Later, Samuel D. Bacon became a partner. Over the door the sign read, “Eells and Bacon.” They continued the business for many years. After the railroad was built, they sold the stones of the building to the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad Company for grading the tracks, and removed their business to a tannery on the Martin Brook Road which Slick Fancher had owned. This was near the Chestnut Hill Cemetery entrance. Falls in the creek there give waterpower—it had been the site of Solomon Martin’s sawmill, built before 1795. Here, Horace Eells and afterward, his son, Spencer Eells, did all sorts of tannery work.

“Hemlock bark was used as basis of the tanning liquor—I have seen hundreds of cords of it piled to dry by the bark mill. Lime also was used in the process of tanning. Hair from the hides was dried and sold for making plaster; the fleshings were sold for glue stock. Huge bales of finished leather frequently were sent to shoe firms in Boston which was then the leather and shoe center of the United States.

“Among the men who worked in the tannery, Moses Ver-Valin was a lifelong employee; Elisha Redfield also worked there many yars.

“The method of tanning then in use produced excellent leather, but it was slow. Hides bought at a good price when converted into leather were sometimes sold at a loss, for the market had changed in the months since the purchase had been made. The change from hand work to machine methods

of production was being responsible for the disappearance of local tanneries throughout the country.

"My father saw the handwriting on the wall and did not need a Daniel to interpret it. He could not compete with modern rapid tanning work. He closed out his stock, sold the building and turned his business abilities to other lines of work.

"So passed out of existence a pioneer industry that had served this community for more than 80 years." <sup>2</sup>

Thus it was that present modern methods of production did away with older, slower hand methods that had provided employment and livelihood for many families of the community.

The development of light and power is an interesting one in our lovely village. Do you know about the old paper mill? It was located on the road to Sidney on the left just below the sheep pen road and later became the site of the power plant of Standard Heat, Light and Power Company. Mr. F. H. Meeker recalls the two owners, Palmer and Johnson. Mr. Marvin Teed had done some research on the mill. They apparently made a high quality paper, utilizing the water power and piling their paper stock to dry out of doors where it sometimes blew around. At least several people recall picking up scattered paper in this location. Financial difficulties made it necessary for the plant to be taken over by Mr. S. S. North and Mr. Sands, and it became the first power plant in the development of the public utility in this section with H. Y. Canfield starting the Standard Light, Heat and Power Co.

Prior to this time, electricity had been introduced in the village. Again in the recollection of the late Mr. F. H. Meeker, who has been of invaluable assistance in this research, while he was working in the old post office located on the present site of the Gregory Appliance Store, there was a man and his wife whose name he could not recall, who lived in the basement. This man was very secretive and conducted experiments and seemed to be working on patent ideas. No one had access to their rooms and even the young man working in the Post Office overhead, delivering mail and doing all the odd jobs, never got a look into the secret work in process downstairs. Wires were finally extended from the basement across the



street and up Main Street to the Mallory Block where Mr. H. C. Gregory conducted a grocery store, now the site of the Victory Super Market. Here a curious device was hung from the ceiling, and the wires were connected to it. The curious object was a sputtering arc light and this was the first electric light in Unadilla, about 1883.

Soon after, Mr. Canfield in his condensery at the site of York Modern, installed a generator and began manufacturing lights for his factory. It is reported that the first sweetened condensed milk was manufactured in this plant, but none of the committee have been able to verify this fact. Borden's processes were patented in 1856 with a condensery in operation in Wolcottville, Conn. The condensery was, however, very progressive and the installation of electric lights is indicative of the progressive thinking of Mr. Canfield and his Superintendent, Mr. Buckley, who had come to Unadilla from another plant near New York. By now, Otsego and Delaware Counties had become famous as dairy sections and maintain 'til this day a high record of milk production, as evidenced by preponderance of milk production industries at nearby Bainbridge with its Borden laboratories, Dry Milk, Casein, Sugar Milk, etc., and milk processing plants at Mt. Upton, Wellsbridge and the central offices of the Whitaker Trucking Plant, occupying significantly enough the old milk plant at Unadilla just off Martin Brook Street and also containing the Unadilla frozen food plant (now closed) and the Krick Tool Company.

Messrs. North, Canfield, Buckley, and Sands became the organizers of Standard Heat, Light and Power Co., with a young lawyer, Jerome Seacord, as their attorney. They took over the paper mill property, converted it to a power plant and began to provide service to Unadilla, then to Sidney (1889), and later to Bainbridge. The New York State Electric and Gas Corporation, who later acquired the property, celebrated in 1952 a centennial and Ray Storie, manager of the Sidney office, made some research in the early records. He is the authority for the following:

"On what is now known as Route 7, about one mile beyond the village, was located the Palmer & Johnston Paper Mill, also Palmer, Humphrey & Co., planing mill, now defunct. It was

there that our village fathers (see above for independent men from Unadilla) conceived the idea of turning this mill into a lighting plant of adequate size to light the village and the surrounding towns. The equipment used and owned by Mr. Wood was bought and transferred to the Sidney plant about 1898.

"Water and steam were used to generate electricity for many years. This plant, later (or first) known as the Standard Light, Heat and Power Company, served as the main source of electricity until it was dismantled in 1925. Jennison Plant was first serving Sidney in October, 1945."

Again referring to Mr. Meeker and his recollections, the first electric street lights in Unadilla were installed on poles with a chain arrangement so that they could be drawn up and lowered. This was necessary so that the carbons by which the arcs were formed could be changed each day. Later development and improvement installed an automatic device that pushed the carbons together without the necessity of daily change, but in the early days, a Mr. King who was the light keeper, carrying his stepladder and a package of carbon rods about the size of pencils, made his daily trip of inspection and adjustment in the village street-lighting system.

Mr. Seacord, the attorney mentioned above, became an authority on title search and was retained in that capacity by the New York State Gas & Electric when it acquired the Standard Light, Heat and Power and another Unadilla boy, Mr. George M. LePine was also associated with its legal department.

It is to be hoped that some authentic records of the old paper mill and its products may some day be found. The site of the power plant, now abandoned, has recently been taken over by the Fawn Distributing Co., and partly torn down. A portion, however, remains, where soft drinks are bottled and distributed. So another chapter of change goes on near the location of the old paper mill.

Several industrial and distributive businesses have continued for more than the half century covered by this history.

The first of these is the Tie Company, organized and operated by Marzy Ward, until his death, associated with Ward Edmonds and Miss Augusta Hitt, and following the death of his father, by Dr. H. Lee Ward. Now owned and operated by

William Yeager. The Tie Company was established in Sidney, but nothing seemed to do well in Sidney at that time, banking institutions were not too optimistic of its success and were reluctant to offer assistance and so the Tie Company came to Unadilla. Several industries of the same period were not too successful in Sidney: the Novelty works, the Sash & Blind factory, the Cortland Cart and Carriage, the Hatfield automobile, the silk mills, just to mention a few that come to mind that worked their influence on the area during the period. Fortunately, the Brown Beveri Co., and their quality product, the Scintilla Magneto chose Sidney as a site for their development and the growth and development of the Scintilla Co., now a subsidiary of the Bendix Co., has had more to do with the growth and development of the whole area than any other single factor. During the war, employment reached a peak of over 8,000 employees and today provides employment to large numbers of residents of Unadilla and the whole area. It has been a great thing for Sidney and for Unadilla, and we can be grateful that the hand of Fate or of Divine Providence brought this growing industry to our locality. Regular employment under fine working conditions has brought contentment and happiness to many, and the resultant trading and home building have assisted in the prosperity of our community.

Dr. Ward has written a brief statement concerning the Tie Company and it will be of interest here: <sup>4</sup>

### A SHORT STORY OF THE TIE COMPANY

In these times of rapid change it is unusual for an industry to be in active operation over a period of sixty years, in one place and under the control of one family and making a single product. The Tie Company of this village has done just that. The ownership has for the most part been in the possession of the Ward family and the product has been a device for tying a cord around a package tightly and rapidly. The device can be used repeatedly until the cord is worn out.

The original idea occurred to M. J. Ward about 1887. The story of the invention in Mr. Ward's own words follows. "Years ago while riding on a train the inventor looked into a railway mail compartment and saw a postal clerk tying letters



with a coarse jute twine, wrapping twice or more each way around the package to hold the twine while being tied, then cutting and throwing away the twine from the packages received. The thought came that there could be a device made that would tie or untie a string or rope with one motion and that could be used over and over again instead of throwing it away.

"Soon after this he had time to study upon the idea. Month after month and year after year, he applied himself to the study of such a device. The principle of the present Holdfast, now made of wire, was discovered after nearly three years of hard study. The first were made of sheet metal and did not prove a success. After nearly two years, the thought came, while strapping a trunk and doing up wraps in a shawl carrier for a departing lady visitor, to make it of wire. This was done immediately and before the week was out \$40.00 worth had been sold. The device was named the 'Holdfast' and business commenced."

It was hoped for a long time to secure the adoption of the Holdfast for use in the Railway Mail Service, for which it was originally intended but the hope has proved vain. However, so many possible uses were discovered that the business has continued until the present day.

The original patent was dated the 20th of May, 1890, to Marzy J. Ward of Sidney, New York, and was given for "A new and useful improvement in fastenings for shoe laces," though cuts of a luggage carrier and document fastener were also shown in the original patent.

Since Mr. Ward was unable to secure sufficient financial backing in Sidney, he came to Unadilla in the spring of 1892 and formed a corporation with R. K. Teller and J. A. Wiesmer of this village. The certificate of incorporation was filed and recorded on March 28, 1892. There were 200 shares of stock of which 50 were held by Mr. Teller, 50 by Mr. and Mrs. Wiesmer and 100 by Mr. and Mrs. Ward. The corporation was called the "Tie Company." Mr. Teller and Mr. Wiesmer continued with the corporation until the spring of 1908; and after that the corporation continued for some time as a family affair. In August of 1917, a partnership was formed between M. J. Ward and Harold York which continued until March, 1922.

After Mr. Ward's death in 1927, the business was carried on under the supervision of Miss M. A. Hitt and Mr. Ward Edmunds and later by Mr. Ward's son. Miss Hitt was connected with the business for about 58 years and Mr. Edmunds for about 30 years. The business has been sold to Mr. G. S. Yeager of New Rochelle and has been carried on under the direction of his son, William, since November 1, 1952.

While the company has been in Unadilla for 60 years it has made many moves within the village over that period. When the industry first came to town it occupied a building on the present site of the Masonic Temple. This building was later moved to Mill Street and ultimately torn down. The first move was to the building now occupied by Constable's Electric Store. From there the move was to some buildings which had previously been used by J. A. Wiesmer for preserving and storing eggs. These buildings were in the rear of the home built by Mr. Wiesmer and now owned by W. J. Dyer. The next move was to Clifton Street opposite the present location of the offices of the Unadilla Silo Company. The buildings were almost completely destroyed by fire and the plant was moved to the Wagon Works Building and later to the four-story wing of the Bishop Hotel. The barn in the rear of the hotel was used for making wooden handles sold to department stores for carrying packages to the homes of the shoppers. This building burned down and the parcel handle business was sold. The final move occurred in 1937 to the present site on Depot Street. One of the buildings now used was built by R. O. Lewis for a feed store and the other was constructed by Mr. Ward as a two family house. The two buildings were connected for use in the present factory. Nearly all the work is now done on a single floor while in the Bishop buildings four floors were used.

The chief uses of the Holdfast ties during the first part of the companies existence was for binding corn shocks. At this time the corn stalks were left outdoors tied up in bundles until needed for cattle food. Over six million cornbinders were sold over one four-year period. Many other uses were discovered and an early catalogue gives the following uses: clothes line ties, tying a horse while grooming, a horse tail tie, bag tie, sash curtain tie, boat anchor outfit, fish stringer, shoe lace tie, hammock

tie, bicycle luggage carrier, trouser guard, and a device for hanging bicycles when not in use.

With the introduction of the silo the demand for corn binders fell off, but industry found the Holdfast Tie to be very valuable in saving time and twine. Gradually the bulk of the business shifted over to the industrial field and at the present time, industry consumes the entire output of the company. The device is now called the "Tyup" instead of the "Holdfast Tie."

The principal industries now using Tyups are shoe manufacturing, the clothing trades, including the cutting up industry and knitting mills, glove manufactories, laundries, newspapers and newspaper delivery services. Tyups are used in all parts of the United States and Canada and at times have been sold abroad.

Another industry which has changed and adapted itself over the years is the business organized by John W. Van Cott and his son, Frank J. Van Cott, on December 1, 1892. The 60th anniversary was noted on December 1, 1952, and it is of interest to note that great-grandsons of the founder are still active in these Unadilla firms, the Unadilla Silo Co., Inc., and J. W. Van Cott & Son, Inc.

John W. Van Cott was a fine Christian gentleman who bore the respect of the community. He married Margelia L. Ives and came to Unadilla with his father after living on a farm above Wellsbridge. He opened a feed store on the corner of Clifton and Sperry Streets and a part of the original building is still in use there. John Van Cott was active in The Methodist Church and was elected lay delegate to the Quadrennial General Conference in Baltimore in 1908. To represent the laymen of the Wyoming Conference was considered a great honor and to be chosen from a small rural community instead of a larger city church in Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Oneonta, or Binghamton, gave even greater recognition to his election. A silk beaver hat was the accepted headgear for this high office and the aforesaid hat is still in the Van Cott attic. John had a small head size and in subsequent years this small beaver hat has appeared in various home talent and local minstrel shows with great appreciation from the audiences. Mr. Van Cott was a member of the Board of Education for many years, and was



an active citizen of the community. His death occurred in California in 1916 and he is buried in Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Unadilla.

His son, Frank J. Van Cott, early displayed qualities of business acumen and good judgment. He was a shrewd, careful businessman, driving a good bargain and expected a good day's work. He himself was untiring in his effort and knew nothing of clocks or regular hours. He ate and slept when his job was done and not at noon or 6 p.m., as the clock indicated. He early developed a liking for lumbering and was successful in estimating and cruising timber lots, getting them cut, skidded and manufactured into lumber and successful in marketing them. John W. Van Cott & Son soon added retail lumber and allied materials to their feed store and were soon established in that business.

It should be recorded that Frank Van Cott was a very generous man. There are many who can tell of his gifts and generous aid under circumstances of illness or need and these gifts and acts of assistance were made quietly and without ostentation. Mr. F. H. Meeker again is the authority for the statement that there would have been no Community House in Unadilla without Mr. Frank Van Cott's assistance. The original purchase of the Community House was by a citizen committee, each of whom made contributions of about a thousand dollars. The last amounts to meet the purchase price were difficult to find, but when Mr. Van Cott was approached and when it was explained to him that the young people were to benefit with recreation grounds, etc., he promptly put in the final \$2,000 required. Thus was the success of the community venture assured.

Mr. Van Cott has already been noted as an inventive genius. There was no such word as "can't" in his vocabulary and he overcame what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles. Without benefit of high school or college education, his method of trial and error eventually worked out the problem. With Abram Oles and Perry Youngs, Willis Boyd and others, the mechanical problems of successful operation of a new machine to do a piece of work were carried out and he held many patents on devices and machines in connection with the manufacture of the

Unadilla Silo, a quality product known by farmers and dairy-men throughout northeastern United States.

The Unadilla Silo Co. was organized in 1906, incorporated in 1909 and has successfully carried on its fine business in its original location. Mr. John M. Hopkins early became associated with the Silo business, coming to Unadilla from West Rupert, Vermont, in 1910. He became sales manager and an officer of the company, supervisor for Unadilla, and was Mayor of Unadilla from 1933-1953. This is an indication of his public-spirited contribution to our community affairs and his vital interest in the improvement and development of Unadilla.

Mr. Van Cott was intrigued by the corn grown in Iowa and Texas and branched out with the Central Unadilla Silo Co., at Des Moines and another silo company at Beaumont, Texas. These concerns, however, so far removed from the base of operations, were not successful and after attempting to operate them for several years, Mr. Van Cott absorbed the financial losses and closed them up. The Unadilla Silo Co. also made at one period The Globe Silo, a competitive line, but later sold this to a group of employees who left the company. The Globe Silo was manufactured at Sidney, New York, for some time, but after a disastrous fire, the company was sold to Carl Hanson who built a new factory in Unadilla and continued to make the Globe Silo. Mr. Hanson also suffered a serious fire loss, but the factory was again promptly rebuilt and provides another industry in our community. The concrete silo is a more recent development and has been made and used successfully by The Globe Silo Co. These, too, have been made locally by the Unadilla Concrete Products, then operated by Leland Quimby. He with his father, Hennan Quimby, and uncle, John Carmichael, had originated and built that plant on Depot Street where concrete pipe, building blocks, and other similar products were manufactured. Here the concrete silos mentioned were built on special forms for that purpose.

J. W. Van Cott & Son continued in the feed and lumber business, and following the death of John Van Cott was incorporated in 1919. At that time they purchased the buildings across the track on Clifton Street known as the Hanford Wagon Works, and have carried on their lumber business at that location ever

since. An electric stationary sawmill has been operated for many years in connection with this business and branch yards were added at Sidney in 1928. Stanley L. Root was the first manager and he was succeeded by Arthur Sommers, a long-time employee associated with the business for over 30 years. The Sidney yard has proven very successful and has added greatly to the volume of business from this area. In 1936 the property of the Walton Toy Co. was taken over and a branch yard established at that location. Mr. Milo VanValkenburg became the manager and served until his death in 1952. The Walton yard was closed January 1, 1954.

Thus the business originated by John W. Van Cott and his son, Frank J., has continued through the Unadilla Silo Co., Inc., and J. W. Van Cott & Son, Inc., for over 60 years.

Unadilla boasted at one time of its fine dry goods store. Marshall Robinson conducted that business for many years and he was succeeded by A. E. Seaman, but upon his death the store was closed. Another fine department store was Sissons in what is now the Gregory Appliance Co. Fine quality merchandise was here available and both Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davy were employed here many years. In Sidney also there was a fine department store—Smith's—but that, too, was closed. The development of large stores in nearby shopping centers in Oneonta and Binghamton, the boom of mail-order stores with their fascinating catalogs, the change from home manufacture of dresses and women's wear to machine and ready-made goods, and over all the change in transportation methods brought about the change in merchandising and distribution that has become so noted today.

Mention has been made of the Hanford Wagon Works. This was early in the 1900's one of the most noteworthy industries of our town.<sup>5</sup> David Hanford was born in New Canaan, Conn., February 3, 1813, and came as a child with his parents to Walton. At the age of 14 he came to Unadilla and apprenticed himself to Sheldon Griswold, the village wagonmaker. Soon after completing his trade, he, in partnership with Willis Edson, bought the business and engaged in the manufacture of wagons. "The firm later became known as D. Hanford & Co., and for upwards of 60 years, he was engaged in a business



which contributed in no small way to the prestige of Unadilla." He married first Mary North of Walton in 1836 and they had three children, Gabriel, William and John. John also conducted a wagon works on Mill Street. David was married a second time to Mary Heath in 1852 and they were the parents of five children: Thomas, Walter, Eliza, Willis and Herman.

With the development of the "horseless carriage" the hand-writing on the wall became apparent again. The manufacture and sale of horsedrawn wagons was soon to end, blacksmith shops, harness shops and the like were also soon to disappear and as of this date are no more. The old blacksmith shop operated by William Davy on the corner of Main and Cottage Lane has been converted into a modern dwelling and the old stone blacksmith shop operated by Mr. Schrier, converted into a part of the Earl Winger farm machinery buildings. The harness shop of Ansel Williams over Martin Brook next to St. Matthew's is now the shoe repair store of Fred Fortini.

Mr. F. H. Meeker was put in charge of the Hanford Wagon Works in an attempt to safeguard the interest of the North Co., who had put money into the local industry. He recalls that three different types of fine wagons were made: A cutter or two seated sleigh, a buggy with a top, and fringe around it as immortalized in "Oklahoma," and their pride and joy, a Buck-board two seated wagon (see illustrations).

Nothing could stop the parade of progress, however, and the business had to be abandoned. The Cortland Cart and Carriage Co. at Sidney suffered the same fate, as did numerous other similar businesses and the factory at Sidney was taken over by the Hatfield Automobile Co., which also proved unsuccessful, and the property eventually passed to the Scintilla Co., previously referred to.

Another old-time business has been the A. D. Oles & Sons shop. Abram Oles celebrated his 98th birthday in February, 1953, but died in April of that year, and his sons, Harry, Claude, and Charles with grandson, Howard, have for years conducted a metal-working factory, building the famous Oles edger for sawmills, playground equipment for schools, and custom work of all kinds, such as those intricate machines used in the Silo Co. and Tie Co. Mention has already been made of the in-

ventive ingenuity of Abram Oles, along with Marzy Ward, and Frank Van Cott, and this trio has meant much to Unadilla in its industrial development.

Two other machine shops operated by Fay Brooks, who recently purchased the Decker Dry Cleaning Plant, are well-equipped with modern power machinery for sub-contracts and special work. William Krick has closed his machine shop and moved to Syracuse. Perry Youngs and his sons operate a repair and welding shop and numerous garages and service stations do repair work and servicing of automobiles. S. A. Lord & Sons, Shell Service, and Emerson Service are all located near Main and Depot Streets. Hood's & Carter's and Kishbaugh at lower Main Street near the viaduct. Grenell (Jim) Stilson's at the Unadilla House corner and Hungerford's at the upper end of Main Street. The Whitaker & Son Garage on Martin Brook Street was purchased by the Unadilla Central School as a bus garage and service point, and the Whitakers, energetic agency for Buick and Chevrolet, have concentrated their operations at Sidney, with a fine display room and garage on Main Street, and service operations in the old silk mill near the river. Glenn Whitaker, long a resident of Unadilla, and associated with his father in a livery stable business before the advent of automobiles, was succeeded in the automobile agency by his son, Glenn, and daughter, Virginia (Tiffany), and this business has been outstanding in its growth and success. Carl Whitaker operating from the old creamery building, Martin Brook and Railroad Avenues, operates a large fleet of tank trucks hauling milk to New York City markets.

Grocery stores have had a precarious existence with the competition of chain stores. J. C. Boynton & Son, now operated by Lester Boynton, since the death of his father; Lee's Grocery, operated by Lee Pierce since its purchase from Arthur Lee; Wood's Market in the Brion Block are the present independent merchants. The Super Market, developed by Burt McIntosh, has recently been sold to the Victory chain. It occupies the block on the corner of Mill and Main Streets, formerly known as the Mallory Block and owned at one time by George Huftalen, who operated a grocery store with Carl Vinton in part of the building. Other chain stores that once operated in Unadilla,

the A&P and Grand Union, variously located in the North Block, the Sisson Block, the Gregory store, etc., have now all abandoned their efforts locally and have concentrated on Super Markets at Sidney within the trading area.

One confesses a certain nostalgia as we consider the change in the last 50 years in the general store. Groceries were of course a staple item but besides the cracker barrel around the big round stove were buggy whips, boots and shoes, dry goods, hardware, household equipment, pots and pans, candy, patent medicines and tobacco. Does not even the remembrance of the varied smells bring to your mind the picture of these "emporiums" of only 50 years ago? In earlier days the merchant was a banker, salesman, a leading citizen of the community, possibly the post master as well—but the coming of the automobile changed the status of the general store and they soon passed out of existence. Now the automobile is bringing back the shopping center with its modern chrome trim where once again a great variety of commodities, this time packaged for consumer service—but where one may collect nearly all the items essential for our exhausting maintenance and repair. Thus passed out of existence one of the most colorful of our earlier citizens, the general store-keeper. One example was the Long Store at Youngs Station just over the hill, where such a store, post office, and community center was maintained for so many years, by this fine resident of the area.

The shoe repair store operated by Louis D'Imperio, who moved to Sidney, is the site of the Brooks Machine Shop and in the rear of the building was at one time the village lock-up or jail, where transient guests were occasionally provided for.

The Boyntons were originally in the hardware business, locating in the North Block. The present hardware store operated by Walter O'Connor and Clyde O'Connell was owned and operated by M. D. Gregory whose son, Maxwell, Jr., conducted the Gregory Appliance Store and services. F. G. Constable in a store opposite the Unadilla Bank had an electrical sales and service outlet, but this is now closed. A modern bakery, Moore's, in the Mulford and Siver Block, now owned by the American Legion with clubrooms on the second floor, performs an important local service. The old bakery, owned and operated by



Edwin Houck, has been converted into an apartment. George Jacobs operates a shoe store in the Legion block.

A men's clothing store operated by H. Marcellus, has recently closed, a barber shop owned by Arthur Amerose, Snovers Dry Cleaning, the Wood Shed, an ice cream and hobby store owned by Howard Wood are the occupants of the block belonging to Antonio Ingenito, formerly the Robinson block, with offices on the second floor, formerly occupied by Dr. F. H. Smith, dentist. "Tony" also operated a restaurant, "Villa Rose," in what was originally the S. S. North Hose Co. house on Clifton Street, now in part of the Robinson block. Howard Lawrence and family have recently taken over the Wood Shed.

Just as a reminder of the industries of 1891, a booklet was published at that time by North & Co., bankers, entitled "Souvenir of Unadilla." The following information is listed:

"Among manufacturing enterprises are: One carriage factory, employing thirty men, and shipping one thousand carriages and one hundred sleighs per year; one milk condensing factory, consuming fifteen to twenty thousand quarts of milk daily, and employing thirty hands; two merchant tailoring establishments, one employing five hands, and the other twenty hands, and turning out twenty suits per week; one steam mill and sash and blind factory, the "Tie Co.," manufacturing labor saving devices, and employing thirty hands; the Unadilla Feed Co., two sawmills, two planing mills, one wagon and repair shop, one carpenter shop, one flouring mill, two grist mills, machine shop and foundry, steam laundry, cigar factory, employing twenty-five hands, and turning out thirty thousand cigars weekly; kitchen knife factory, coal shute factory, steam power tannery, an egg pickling establishment which handles two hundred thousand dozen eggs per year; five stone quarries, building sand, for which parties often send a long distance; and a large wholesale and retail sewer pipe establishment.

"West of Unadilla, in the Town of Unadilla, there is a large paper mill; also, saw, feed, and planing mills.

"The professional men of Unadilla stand high in their professions, and their practice is not limited to this vicinity.

"Unadilla has—

The best gravity system of water works

The most miles of stone sidewalk  
 The most miles of street gutters and drain pipes  
 The most miles of sewers  
 The best electric street lights  
 The best fire protection  
 The two finest river water powers  
 The finest banking office  
 The finest insurance office  
 The neatest, cleanest streets  
 The most buildings and residences heated by hot water  
 The finest brick blocks  
 OF ANY VILLAGE OF ITS SIZE IN THE STATE.

"Unadilla courts not 'booms,' but strives for and secures a healthy, steady and permanent growth and improvement. It is par excellence 'THE VILLAGE OF THE SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY.' Visit Unadilla and let your own observation confirm the statements herein made."

The Joyce Stores occupy the S. S. North Bank Block. Mention has been made of Fred J. Joyce and the fine store which carried such a complete line of furniture. Customers came from nearby towns to see the stock and to purchase. Mr. Joyce also carried on a fine undertaking establishment. A young man, George Silvernell, who became associated with him later, purchased the business from Mrs. Joyce whose death occurred in May, 1953, and has enlarged and expanded the Joyce Stores. The building has been remodeled with a funeral chapel, and many new display rooms have been added. The Charles C. Flaesch law offices upstairs in this building, and the former location of the Grand Union chain all have been vacated and filled with the new lines of radio, television, and electric appliances, also floor coverings, etc., as well as the large stocks of rugs, furniture and home furnishings. Nowhere in Unadilla has there been more striking change than in the development of the Joyce Stores, from the S. S. North Bank Building.

The York Modern has become famous with its production of power road grading machines and shipments of these machines all over eastern United States as well as exports to overseas countries are indicative of its wide acceptance in this field.

Harold Q. York took over the active management after the death of his uncle, Mahlon York, and it has provided steady employment in its well-equipped shops and factory. More and more of the old buildings have been modernized and transferred to active use again by York Co.

New law office by Livingston Latham near the Methodist parsonage on Main Street affords fine quarters for the Otsego Co. Surrogate and a part of the Brion Block formerly on Main Street were the law office of Wayne L. Tyson, active in income tax returns and law practice. The offices of Charles C. Flaesch on Martin Brook Street in the remodeled house have recently been closed in the illness of Mr. Flaesch and his subsequent death in November, 1952. Now purchased by Wayne Tyson for his law business. This building has been sold and a modern fire-proof law office erected by Mr. Tyson on the vacant lot. He had been active in community affairs, served as Master of Freedom Lodge, was active in the building of the Masonic Temple, had been president of the Board of Education, and interested in school affairs, a director of the Unadilla National Bank, village attorney from 1908 to the time of his death, and his passing removes another of the friends of Unadilla.

Speaking of the school brings to mind a document that has recently come to light. It is the record of a graduate of the old Academy in his courses passed for college entrance. He was a student here in 1888, 1889, and 1890. Having previously completed high school courses in:

"American History, Physiology, Algebra (thro quad.), Physical Geography, Civil Government, English History, Book-keeping, Rhetoric, Plane Geometry, History of Greece, History of Rome, Geology, Solid Geometry, Algebra (Higher), and Caesar's Com (Bks. 1-4)."

He now took at the Academy the following courses with Principal Sullivan and received Regents credit for them:

"Plane Trigonometry, Cicero Six Orations, Ovid's Metamorphoses, Vergil's Eclogues, Xenophon's Anab. 1-3, Sallust's Catiline, Vergil's Aeneid 1-6, Latin Composition, Greek Composition, Homer's Iliad 1-3, Mental Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, Physics (Elementary), English Literature, and Political Economy."



He also taught school in the old Kilkenney District for one term and later became a distinguished lawyer and church leader.<sup>6</sup>

In a historical supplement of *The Unadilla Times* on their 75th anniversary, this statement concerning the old Academy appears:

"The Academy started in 1850. In the following year a stock company was formed and 139 shares were sold. It is of interest to note that most of the stock was bought by inhabitants of the 'upper town.' In those days there was a very active rivalry between the 'down-town' and 'up-town' sections of the community, and when the Academy was organized and started in the uptown section, the down-towners were in little mood to give it their fullest support. The addition of this institution to the up-town section was something of a victory for the up-towners.

"A building had been erected in 1850 costing \$3000, 40 by 50 feet in dimension. The first Principal was Dewitt Baker. The old Charter issued by the Board of Regents of the State Department of Education still hangs on the wall at the office of the present school. It is under date of 1851. The names of the Trustees indicated therein are as follows: Arnold B. Watson, Abiel D. Williams, Erastus Kingsley, Clark I. Hayes, L. L. Woodruff, Wm. T. Thompson, Evander Odell, E. M. Packard, Joel Bragg, J. C. Gregory, G. R. Porter, and S. G. Cone.

"The Academy was one of many similar institutions established about the state in those years. Its purpose was to furnish a higher grade of training beyond the common school, to prepare for college, and to instruct in those subjects which were then looked upon as essential to culture. Especial emphasis was then placed upon the ancient languages, literature, and political economy. The reputation of Unadilla Academy came to be known throughout a large section of the state, and the traditions of the institution still linger."<sup>7</sup>

When we think of the development of education with the Central School, the program of shared services through the Otsego County Vocational Board, the increased State Aid for Education, etc., the changed emphasis in courses offered, tells part of the story of the development of our school system in

the last 50 years. A record of graduates since 1880 has been accurately maintained by the Alumni Association, copies of which are a part of the file for this chapter.

No chapter could be complete in describing the changing industries without mention of Chambers Sales Stables. David Chambers, with his sons and brothers, Telford and John, have established a unique and growing business, and has recently been incorporated. Every Wednesday evening the streets of the village are crowded with cars and trucks finding available parking places. Hotels, diners, and restaurants are filled with hungry people who have come to attend a Chamber's livestock auction. Horses from the great Western states, cattle from the whole Northeast and Eastern seaboard are shipped in for disposal here. Carloads of horses are unloaded, truckloads of horses and cattle come in prior to the sales. All are marketed quickly and profitably in the ready market here. The familiar singsong of the tobacco auctioneer is here re-enacted and villagers and visitors attend the good show that is always available in the ring.

Dave also has a fine string of race horses which has been doing right well. His father, Peter Chambers, also a cattle buyer of renown, is a familiar figure around the sales stables and this business certainly brings large amounts of merchandise and large crowds of people to Unadilla each week. Who said the day of the horse is past? Unadilla is famous among farmers for miles around for its horse and cattle auctions. Better visit them sometime. You will be welcome and you will enjoy the evening there—it's almost like a fair or a circus and one of Unadilla's finest businesses. The sales stables started out in the old brewery building at the corner of Maple Avenue and Weidman Street, but have expanded and enlarged until they spread over several acres in that general location. It's an interesting development in the industry of Unadilla.

A. W. Eichenberger started a Five and Dime store in Unadilla to take the place of the department stores that had closed and this is now operated by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Mead, and their son, Fred Mead, Jr.

Steve Evans has a Barber Shop in the Odd Fellows Block and Bohn the Barber is now closed, following his death and his

shop has become an apartment. Herman Bohn was in business for over thirty years and was active in Masonic circles here.

Mrs. Bertha Brion (Harry) continued the business started by her husband and was daily at her store in spite of her advancing years. Now in 1956 she has disposed of the store to Bruce, Dallas and Audrey Marcellus.

The drug store in Unadilla was operated for many years by Robert Homan whose death occurred in 1951. Prior to that time by reason of failing health he sold the business to Robert Kinch of Franklin and Shinhopple fame. When the post office moved from the Seaman Building to its present location beside Martin Brook in a building owned by Kenneth Atkin, Mr. Kinch moved his store to the Seaman block. The old drug store building was taken over by Mr. Wayne Tyson for his law office and Mr. Kinch has more room to expand with the addition of many new lines now found in drug stores. If you're interested in changes consider the change in the corner drug store. Formerly the Apothecary, a splendid example of which is now at the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, dispensary of all the modern requirements and a good pharmacist now must, it is said, also be able to prepare an egg salad sandwich with pickle relish, quickly and tastily. Certainly we have come to depend on the drug store for those multitudinous comforts and conveniences for our modern living, and a druggist today has to be a real merchandiser with an ever increasing inventory to be successful in his business. We should hesitate to record the number of items to be found today in a modern drug store such as we have in Unadilla. Al Bonner conducts an insurance business from the former Homan drug store location and Louis Sturgess owns and operates the drug store.

Fisk and Son, the G.L.F. dealers operate a fine feed store near the Depot. David Fisk now retired being a long time resident of this village. His son, Charles, recently sold the coal business to Orlo Couse who with Hugh Borden as the Unadilla Oil and Fuel Co. has recently installed large oil storage tanks.

Tony Bafundo on lower Main Street is also in the fuel oil business in our village. As also Fred Kramer on Bridge and Watson Streets.



Orlo Cole upholsterer has branched out into furniture display and sales on lower Main Street.

Now if we have missed any of the Unadilla enterprises, it has truly been unintentional but the length of the chapter calls to our mind the necessity of terminal facilities. Certainly no one can review the present economic situation without recognizing the changes that have come about through our high standard of living, the productivity of our industries, the modern machines, mass production, the efficiency of trained men, the development and research in practically every field. Nowhere in the world has there been a development such as this and even in the remote places these changes have affected every life. We no longer can live by ourselves, producing and processing what each family requires, but we are dependent on everyone else for our comfort and convenience. Unadilla has faced the problem of change and has adjusted itself to the new requirements. That is one reason for its continued existence and the ability to change and adapt to new situations may be a test of continuing history of our lovely "Village Beautiful." Change is bound to come—like death and taxes, but we face courageously the future in the light of what has been accomplished in the past. May Unadilla continue to grow and change with the times.

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## FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 5

1. Talk given by Mr. Charles House, Susquehanna Division Superintendent, D. and H. Railroad Co., Oneonta, N.Y., to Unadilla Rotary Club, October 8, 1952.
2. Anna Eells article on file with historical papers. Miss Eells a direct descendant of John Eells mentioned several times in this history.
3. Rae Storie, Manager, Sidney Plant of the New York State Gas and Electric Co., Sidney, N.Y. Sidney Record-Enterprise about December 1952. "Early Days of Street Lighting in Sidney, N.Y."
4. Dr. H. Lee Ward, son of Marzy Ward from an original article for this chapter in the historical files.
5. David Hanford Wagon Works from reminiscences of Frederick H. Meeker, Rev. Yale Lyon's scrapbooks and other sources.
6. Dr. Henry R. Van Deusen's record in the files of Regent examinations from transcript in historical file. Dr. Van Deusen the son of a Methodist min-

## CHANGES IN INDUSTRY

ister is one of the oldest living graduates of the Unadilla Central High School and Academy, and has had a distinguished career as a lawyer in Scranton, Pa., and as a member of the Judicial Council of The Methodist Church, acting as its first secretary and writing many important decisions.

7. Historical Unadilla, 1855-1930. 75th Anniversary, *Unadilla Times*.

## CHAPTER 6

### 1920-1930

THE period from 1920-1930 seems to be one of relatively few significant events. However, in the data collected for this period, there are many interesting facts.

Mention has already been made of the acquisition of the Unadilla Community House and appropriate ceremonies were prepared for its dedication. The purchase price was \$8,000; in addition to that, \$9,000 was used for the improvements to the house and grounds, making a total of \$17,000 all of which was turned over to the village free and clear of encumbrances. Subscriptions were received by a local committee and the total amount was raised through the generosity of the citizens of Unadilla. More than one-fourth of the total amount necessary to achieve the memorial library and Community House was pledged by members of the Halsey family, the \$5,000 total being paid to the local committee when the required amount had been subscribed. A record of the advantages of a community house was given in this way:

"To sum it all up, Unadilla now has a public library and community house, the like of which is not possessed by any town of its size in New York State, and all absolutely free of cost to its taxpayers.

"The outstanding benefits derived are:

"A large airy library and reading room containing the valuable private library of the late Francis H. Halsey, comprising more than 1,000 choice volumes.

"In connection with the library a curio and historical room in which are collected relics, pictures and records pertaining to the early life and history of Unadilla, each article suitably tagged with its history and the name of donor or owner.

"An assembly hall suitably appointed to accommodate any village meeting, and open at all times.

"A splendid suite of rooms for the American Legion, permanent quarters for our returned World War heroes.





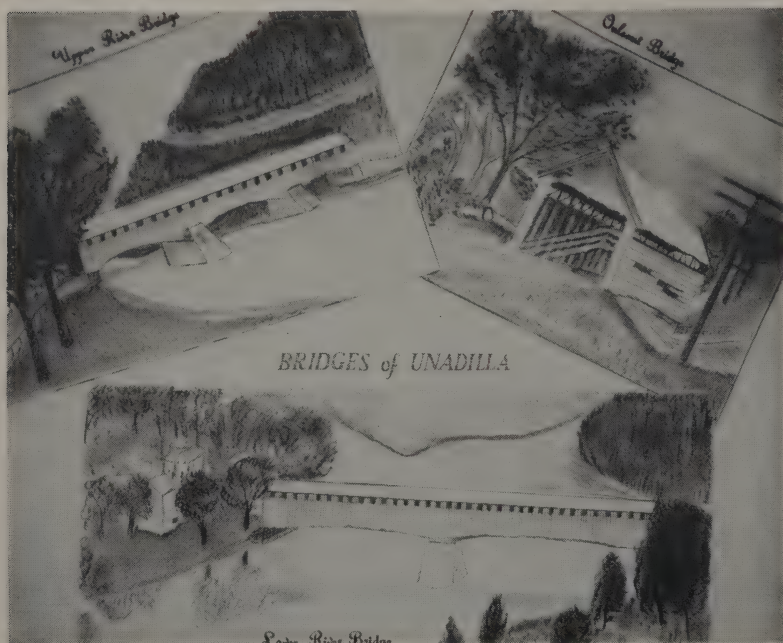
The second Upper Bridge across the Susquehanna at Unadilla built 1817. This photograph was from an old plate found in the Jayes house when remodeled by Arnold Sherman and we believe has not been published previously.



A photograph loaned by Wayne L. Tyson, showing the Lower Covered Bridge and Toll House, taken from Evergreen Cemetery Hill.



This old Covered Bridge built in 1879 was taken down in 1956 and replaced by Delaware County Highway Department. It was located about one mile from Unadilla over the Ouleout.



A drawing made by Ralph Morse showing all three old bridges.

# CATSKILL TURNPIKE MAP

The Catskill Turnpike Route  
Scale Map prepared by Mrs. Lynn Finch, Franklin, N. Y. from study of historical Society



Scale 1" = 3 mi.

Dirt Roads  
Between Manokill d. Durham (right turn or Manokill to Durham.)  
Places where State Roads have changed the old road a little.  
Beyond Meredith a small section abandoned, left turn can still be seen thru woods.

Map prepared by Mrs. Lynn Finch, Franklin, N. Y., showing route of Catskill Turnpike. Several of the old milestone markers are located on the road to Franklin from Unadilla. The Catskill Turnpike to Wattles Ferry in Unadilla had a great influence on the settlement of Unadilla.





Rev. Yale Lyon, Scoutmaster, established the first Boy Scout Troop in Unadilla, which has had continuous operation since 1910. It is one of the oldest in the United States.



Lovely old stone law office of Judge Noble, torn down and used in paving Unadilla streets. It was located on Noble Street in the location of the Heimer House across from the Schoolhouse.

## UNADILLA CENTRAL SCHOOL AND ACADEMY



Old Unadilla Academy which stood where Creamery Building, now Whitakers Trucking, is located.



School which was torn down soon after centralization. Stones from foundation used in gates and walls at Evergreen Cemetery.



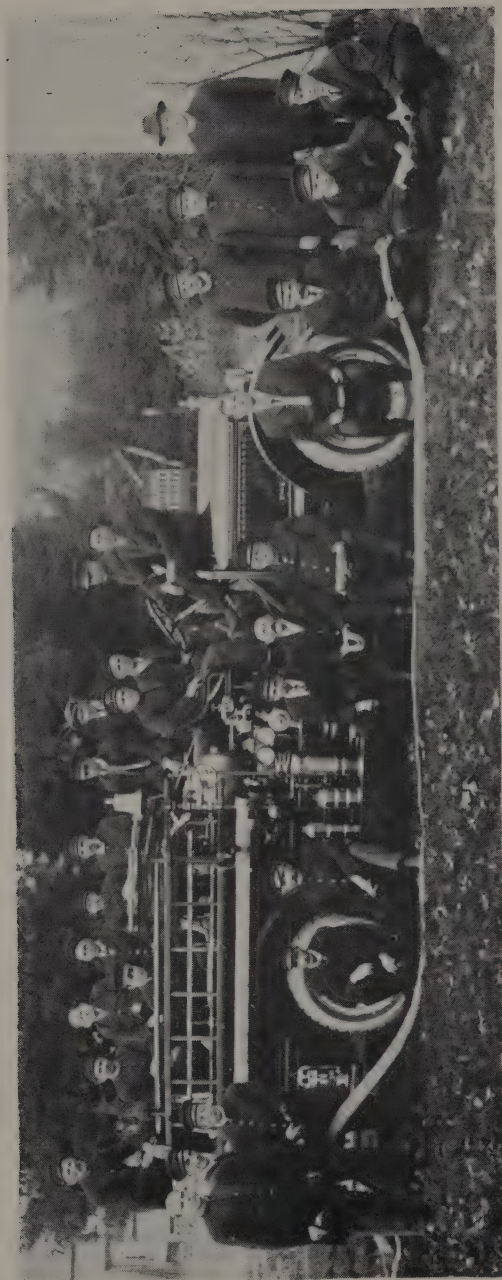


Photo by H. Jorden

The new fire engine in 1921. Fireman shown beginning at left: *Top Row.* O. Pickett, W. Boyd, W. Southworth, L. Haynes, C. Huftalin, J. Ingram, L. Boynton, H. Boomhauer, C. C. Moore, O. Fiske, B. Wyman, J. Vrooman. *Lower Row.* D. Crandall, E. Smith, H. Brion, G. Munger, D. Welsey, H. Dibble, G. Whitaker, Chief Ostrander, F. Parsons, B. Judson, Yale Lyon, J. Wilber, Webster, E. Judd.



# Drives from Ontio around Unadilla and Vicinity.

LIST OF DRIVES.	DISTANCE.	2-Seated Surrey.	3-Seated Surrey.
Around Village via Upper Bridge,	3 Miles.	\$1.50	\$2.00
Poplar Hill, Youngs and South Unadilla,	8 "	2.25	3.00
Union Church,	10 "	2.50	3.25
Sidney,	10 "	2.50	3.25
Wells Bridge,	10 "	2.50	3.25
Red School House, Four Corners and Bishop's Hill,	10 "	2.50	3.25
Union Church via Lloyd's Mills,	12 "	3.00	3.75
Power House Sheep Pen & Kilkenny Hill,	12 "	3.00	3.75
Wells Bridge return via Lloyds Mills,	12 "	3.00	3.75
Sidney Centre via Poplar Hill,	12 "	3.00	3.75
Unadilla Centre via Four Corners and Bishop's Hill,	15 "	3.25	4.00
Sidney Centre and return via Lloyd's Mills,	15 "	3.25	4.00
Unadilla Centre and return via Milfer,	15 "	3.25	4.00
Sand Hill and Wells Bridge,	15 "	3.25	4.00
Rogers Hollow via Power Hill,	15 "	3.25	4.00
Poplar Hill, High Peak & Salisbury Hill,	15 "	3.25	4.00
Unadilla Centre via Wells Bridge,	18 "	3.50	4.50
Unadilla Centre via Red School House,	18 "	3.50	4.50
Four Corners and Wells Bridge	18 "	3.50	4.50
Rogers Hollow via Sidney,	18 "	3.50	4.50
Sidney via East Guilford & Power House,	20 "	3.50	4.50
Unadilla River via Rogers Hollow, East Guilford and Power House,	20 "	3.50	4.50
Masonville,	20 "	3.50	4.50
Franklin,	20 "	3.50	4.50
Bainbridge,	22 "	3.75	4.75
Otego,	22 "	3.75	4.75
Sidney Centre, Sherman Hill and Bartlett Hollow,	22 "	3.75	4.75
Gilbertsville via Milfer,	25 "	4.00	5.00
Franklin via Otego,	28 "	4.50	5.50
Mt. Upton via Sidney and Unadilla River,	30 "	4.50	5.50
Afton,	32 "	5.00	6.00
Guilford Lake,	32 "	5.00	6.00
Gilbertsville via Mt. Upton,	35 "	5.00	6.00
Treadwell,	35 "	5.00	6.00
Wakon,	38 "	6.00	7.00
Oneonta,	40 "	6.00	7.00

Single Horses with buggy or runabout furnished at reasonable rates.

**WHITAKER & SCRIBNER, Liverymen,  
UNADILLA, N. Y.**

Poster showing livery rates from The Ontio. This poster was recently discovered by Charles Fisk.



World War I Liberty Loan Committee, photographed in front of the Unadilla National Bank.

Beginning at the left: J. M. Hopkins, C. Pomoroy, J. S. Seacord, B. M. Pecor, F. H. Meeker, F. M. Tyson, A. E. Pixley, W. H. Sisson, C. C. Flaesch, W. Hanford.

## UNADILLA VILLAGE OFFICIALS



Long Time Service of Village Officials. Willis J. Topliff, Clerk appointed 1908; Van Ness Sherman, Trustee, elected 1936; John M. Hopkins, Mayor, elected 1933; Charles C. Flaesch, Attorney, appointed 1904; Edwin R. Chamberlain, Trustee, elected 1937.

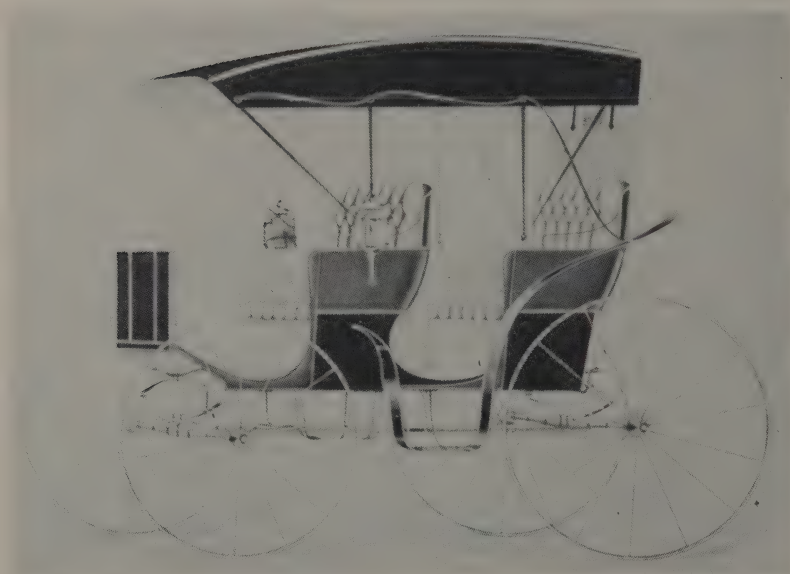


New Central School and Academy. An addition was completed in 1953.





Flood Control Dam, U. S. Corps Engineers, about 5 miles from Unadilla at East Sidney.



From an old catalogue of the Hanford Wagon Works obtained from F. H. Meeker's files. This cut shows Surrey No. 110 priced at \$150.00.



A picturesque old elm just out of Unadilla on the Franklin Road.  
Photograph was taken by A. E. Pixley in 1907.

## MARTIN BROOK FLOOD PICTURES



Martin Brook St., North from Railroad. Two pictures showing flood damage from Martin Brook Creek. These were both from F. H. Meeker files.



Martin Brook St., South.



"A pleasantly arranged suite of rooms, with kitchen attached, available for use of the village organizations.

"Commodious playgrounds for the village children, tennis courts, and croquet grounds and a ball diamond, right in the heart of the village.

"In addition to the undeniable benefits derived from a public library and community house, Unadilla now possesses a fitting and substantial monument which combines usefulness with ornament, for surely the community house, with its green lawns and beautiful trees, will enhance, if possible the charm of our village." <sup>1</sup>

On the occasion of the dedication, which was on May 30, Memorial Day, 1921, the services were largely attended. It was a beautiful day and the crowd was enthusiastic about this fine memorial. Dr. S. J. White, President of the village announced the following program:

Opening Prayer—Rev. Wilbur C. Dodge

Dedication—Rev. Yale Lyon

Address—Dr. C. A. Schumacher of the Oneonta Normal School

Benediction—Rev. E. J. Griswold <sup>2</sup>

Rev. Yale Lyon's dedication contained the following sentiments:

"We, the people of the village of Unadilla, County of Otsego, State of New York on this 30th day of May in the year of our Lord 1921 have come to dedicate this public library and community house to the glory of Almighty God and in memory of a goodly company to those who have passed into the life of the world to come.

"We have come to dedicate it to serve this community in many ways; for an inspiration to youth, the comfort of age, a rest for the weary and a place of recreation for those who toil.

"We have come to dedicate it to promote the good health of men, women, and children by its playgrounds and ball field, to advance sound learning in its library, to insure a spirit of good fellowship in its assembly rooms and a spirit of patriotism in its provision for the Red Cross and American Legion; while the fruits of religion are manifested in the desire to serve, elevate and inspire this whole community.

"As this building and grounds are to provide for the entertainment, welfare, and inspiration of all our citizens so must each find here some opportunity for community service and social uplift; for according to our opportunities are our responsibilities. So we not only dedicate a building with its recreation grounds on this Memorial Day, but we also dedicate ourselves for community service.

"Here let us share our ideals, here let life touch life, here let there be a stirring of the heart and the realization of beauty and lofty thoughts, given simply and humbly. Here let us dedicate ourselves 'to be better than our common selves,' lifted out of the commonplace by our splendid opportunity for community service." <sup>3</sup>

The newspaper account of the day says that a rather amusing exhibition of the national game took place on the diamond in the rear of the community house, the town team defeating a team representing the Nestle Company, 21-4.<sup>4</sup> All in all it was a very joyous occasion.

An interesting article comes to light reprinted from the *Unadilla Times* of February 25, 1892 in connection with the Fire Department. It tells of the Fair which was sponsored by the Canfield Hose Company and is entitled "THE LAST OF THE FAIR." Various early maps of Unadilla show the grounds the Susquehanna Valley Agricultural Society of Unadilla and Sidney and their badge was displayed in one of the scrapbooks of the Rev. Yale Lyon, showing membership in the society and the date 1859, which we assume to be the organization date.<sup>5</sup> The old fairgrounds were East of Clifton Street on the large flats below Kilkenny Road and West of Prospect Street.

A recent development of the old Fairground property then owned by Stanton, was a proposal by the Board of Education for their purchase as a step for a new grade school, a proposition that was defeated by the voters by a 3-2 vote.<sup>6</sup>

In 1924 there was a special village election on the following proposition:

"Shall the Village of Unadilla, County of Otsego and State of New York, borrow upon its bonds or other obligations the sum of \$50,000.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary,

for the purpose of constructing and improving with Tarvia macadam, the streets and highways in said village?" The election was held on the 17th day of June 1924 and 119 voted yes and 151 voted no; therefore it was defeated by 33 votes.<sup>7</sup>

During this decade, a new fire engine was obtained. In 1921 the proud firemen gathered around the new machine and had their pictures taken (see illustration). Following is a list of these men: Orrin Pickett, W. C. Boyd, W. Southworth, L. Hayme, C. Huftalin, J. Ingram, L. Boynton, H. Boomhauer, C. C. Moore, O. Fisk, B. B. Wyman, J. Vroman, D. Crandall, E. Smith, H. Brion, Munger, Welsey, F. Parsons, B. Judson, Rev. Yale Lyon, H. Dibble, H. Strait, G. Whitaker, Chief Ostrander, J. Wilber, Webster, E. Judd.<sup>8</sup>

The Unadilla Rod and Gun Club celebrated its first annual banquet in the dining rooms of the Baptist Church. The Hon. George L. Lockes, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the N.Y.S. Conservation Association gave an address on "Prehistoric Life." Several representatives of the Conservation Commission were present, and spoke.<sup>9</sup>

About the same time, reforestation was discussed at the meeting at the Unadilla House. It was the idea of those interested that a tract of land on the headwaters of Martin Brook and on the watershed of Martin Brook reservoirs be set out to white pine trees which would conserve the water supply, help to keep it free from pollution, and might develop into profit at a later date. It was thought that \$5,000 was necessary to carry out the project, and it was suggested that a corporation be organized with stocks selling at \$10 a share.<sup>10</sup>

There was a big clambake held October 21, 1922, on the Community House grounds which was for the benefit of the ball team to liquidate a deficit arising from the previous year's operation. Tickets were \$2.50; the Unadilla Band led a parade; there was a ball game; Capt. Daniel Fox of Sidney with his Troop C Riders put on an exhibition; and the whole affair was entered into by the entire community, as the list of committeemen responsible for the reception, sale of tickets, publicity, the bake itself, equipment, music, sports, etc., would indicate. The Hon. C. C. Flaesch was the chairman and John M. Hopkins the treasurer of the affair.<sup>11</sup>



About 1,000 people assembled for a community religious service on the Community House lawn showing a "true community spirit, a common bond of neighborly fraternal feeling."<sup>12</sup> The newspaper report continues: "A first glance at the string of cars looked as though a night game of baseball was on and pretty soon the grandstand gong would sound the taps of another run; but it was Sunday. All fouls and strikes were off. Even the apple trees and lumber piles that fringe the ball ground were taking a quiet rest."<sup>13</sup>

Subsequent services were announced for the Community House lawn or in case of rain, Mulford's Hall.

Fresh air children began arriving in Unadilla in 1921. It was reported that 113,000 in the congested tenement districts of N.Y. required vacations in the country.<sup>14</sup> The committee consisted of: Mrs. Francis Meeker, chairman; with Mesdames H. L. Beatty, Alice Young, Claude Oles, O. H. Crooker, Carl Vinton, Rev. Yale Lyon, G. N. Case, J. G. Brown, B. W. Dix.<sup>15</sup>

The Tianaderrah was advertised as a summer resort deluxe in an interesting pamphlet by George M. LePine: "The Tianaderrah, Summer Resort Deluxe is located on a mountaintop at Unadilla, Otsego County, New York in the foothills of the Catskills, overlooking the beautiful Susquehanna River valley, one of the most scenic and beautiful valleys in the state. The situation of the house is such that from its broad porch a view is obtained both up and down the valley, which bends at this point, giving a clear view of over ten miles. From both sides of the valley rise mountain ranges covered with stately trees which add to the attractiveness of the view.

The altitude at the summit on which the Tianaderrah is situated is 1,500 ft., a guaranty of pure mountain air, and there is never a time when an invigorating breeze is not present.<sup>16</sup>

The article goes on to describe the wide porches, the annex containing sleeping quarters and bath, a description of the interior of the house with the parquet flooring, the music room furnished in the finest of birdseye maple, the library finished entirely with curly birch, the living and dining rooms panelled with quartered oak, tile baths, a remarkable cuisine with milk and cream available from Jersey cows, 45 acres of land making up a wonderful natural park. The rates were advertised as being

\$25 to \$35 per week, American plan, depending on the location of the room and number of occupants.<sup>17</sup>

The Alumni Banquet was held in the Tianaderrah in 1926 and Henry Buckley of Oneonta was the principal speaker, telling of his trips abroad, with a welcome by Miss Hannah Wheat and a response by Samuel Foster.<sup>18</sup>

It was about this time that in neighboring Walton they celebrated the memorial of the founding of that village 139 years before (1924). The article states that on May 16, 1785 "the families of Dr. Platt Townsend, Joshua Pine, Gabriel North, Robert North, and William Furman, after an arduous journey from Marbletown on the Hudson reached the site of the land on the west branch of the Delaware river which Dr. Townsend had purchased from William Walton Jr."<sup>19</sup> On the Ogden Free Library grounds at Gardner Place was unveiled a glacial boulder bearing a bronze tablet as a lasting memorial to these pioneer men and women. Mrs. Yale Lyon is a descendant of Robert and Elizabeth Carter North.

Lord's Garage advertised that they were offering taxi service in their new Dodge special sedan at 20c a mile and 50c an hour while waiting, but special rates were available on long trips.<sup>20</sup>

The Binghamton Chamber of Commerce made a trip to Unadilla and proposed that a local Chamber of Commerce be appointed. About 60 were in the delegation representing Binghamton, headed by J. B. Wiles, Secretary of that organization, and accompanied by several members of the Live Wire Club of Binghamton. They explained that the Chamber is organized for mutual pulling together for the community good and is a unit that attends to what is everybody's business, but nobody's business.<sup>21</sup> A committee was appointed at the conclusion of the affair, consisting of Mr. Frederick H. Meeker, chairman, and John M. Hopkins, Robert Homan, Rev. Yale Lyon, Lynn Earl, Dr. F. S. Heimer, Dr. F. H. Smith, William Dickson, Clark E. DeForest and George M. LePine.<sup>22</sup>

On June 28, 1926, the 96 room hotel known as the Ontio was ravaged by fire and completely destroyed. Damage was estimated at \$60,000 with only about \$25,000 insurance on buildings and furnishings.<sup>23</sup> It marked the end of the era in which the Ontio had been one of the outstanding summer

resorts in this section of the state. It had become noted for its gracious living, its excellent meals, its lovely scenery, and delightful paths on and around Blue Mountain. It has never been rebuilt, and the site is still filled with the twisted ruins of plumbing fixtures, bed springs and other non-inflammable material.

The Woman's Club enjoyed a winter picnic at which 35 members were in attendance in 1926. The officers for the coming year were Mrs. A. T. Kirby, President; Mrs. L. H. Rider, First Vice Pres.; Mrs. F. S. Davy, Second Vice Pres.; Mrs. O. L. Slater, Recording Secretary; Miss Emily Carpenter, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. F. D. Seaman, Treasurer; Mrs. William Dickson, Parliamentary Critic; Mrs. W. J. Young and Mrs. F. H. Smith, Directors for two years. Mention is made that the Boy Scouts had a quota of \$300 for Unadilla which seemed altogether too large and impossible to raise to enable the troops of this village to belong to the Otschodela Council, and recounts something of the history of the first troop organized by the Rev. Yale Lyon, and the second one by Miss Sarah Polhemus, both troops active and earnest, and also the fact that Arnold Southworth had reached the rank of Eagle Scout, one of the few in this vicinity to have attained this honor. In view of all this, the Woman's Club, realizing the wonderful good which Scouting has performed, decided to see if they could start something in this quota of \$300 and donated \$25.<sup>24</sup>

The Joyce-Bell Post No. 578 American Legion, received post colors, donated by Dr. W. D. Heimer and wife of Hamden, and Commander Heimer and wife of Unadilla. The Hon. John D. Clark, Congressman from this area, was the speaker, and there were present at the services W. H. Hotaling, and Lewis Gundlach of the Civil War Service and O. F. Sampson of the Spanish-American War. A service was held Sunday evening in St. Matthew's church; then on the following day, Memorial Day, the memorial service and dedication was held on the Community grounds. The Hon. David Lee gave an inspiring address and the usual parade, headed by Joyce-Bell Post, Boy Scouts, Veterans of other wars, school children, marched to St. Matthew's cemetery where "Taps" was sounded over the grave of Private Roy Bell, and to Evergreen Hill cemetery where the



traditional melody was again played over Lt. Whitney Joyce's grave. It was one of the finest celebrations of Memorial Day in Unadilla.<sup>25</sup>

The clock at St. Matthew's church was restored during this decade. It had been over 50 years that the timepiece had not been running, but was restored through the generosity of Mrs. S. S. North in memory of her husband, the late Samuel Shaw North. A. D. Oles and Son of Unadilla did the work.<sup>26</sup>

A pamphlet printed by the Citizens Committee embracing the 165 taxpayers who had petitioned the Public Service Commission with regard to the State Highway Department plans of crossing elimination entitled "Main Street's Beauty Menaced!" A special election is noted for July 16, 1929 when the citizens would have an opportunity of expressing their choice between the two plans for eliminating the existing grade crossing on lower west Main Street. One plan had been drafted by the State Department of Public Works and the other by the D. and H. Railway Company. The crossing in question had been ordered eliminated by the Public Service Commission in view of the several tragic accidents there. The State Department of Highways plan was the one which was finally accepted, with the highway "turning off from the south side of Main Street at a point in front of the Grace Bass property, thence across the Joseph Brown estate property and the farm land of Ernest Rathbun and west of the existing Main Street railroad crossing thence across the backyard lots filling station and a corner of the H. Young property, where it connects with the present highway to Sidney and points west.<sup>27</sup> The estimated cost for the W. D. Hanford house and would involve property damage of \$9,185. The other proposal was apparently a viaduct which would begin farther back on Main Street, from a point in from the W.D. Hanford house and would involve property damage of over \$60,000.<sup>28</sup>

This reminder of Main Street brings to attention an article which was written by Francis W. Halsey in the *Unadilla Times* on April 9, 1897. This was an article from the Unadilla Library file and tells of Main Street as follows:

"To these years (1791-92) belongs the building of Main Street in Unadilla village as well as the valley road westward

to the Unadilla river. The survey was made by Nathaniel Lock and Lock's original map is still preserved in Albany among the State Land Papers where I saw it several years ago. In December 1791, a certificate signed by Solomon Martin, David Bates, Israel Smith, Elijah Heyden, Nathaniel Lock and other inhabitants of the Ouleout and Unadilla, declared that this road had been completed agreeable to Lock's map by Benjamin Hovey and John Masserean. The signers declared that 'said road had been amended so that loaded ox teams, or carts, can pass and repass the whole distance with ease.' At first the road in the village ran further south than it does now. Its course was several times altered, and once at the instance of Solomon Martin, to whom credit is given for present deviation from a straight line near the post office."

In the same article, he also tells of the stage route from Unadilla to Catskill as follows:

"Two stages were to be kept regularly on the road, the fare to be 5c per mile. A stage that left Catskill Wednesday morning reached Unadilla Friday night, and one that left Unadilla Sunday reached Catskill Tuesday. The most prosperous period for the road was the ten years from 1820 to 1830. About the end of that period Col. North was a boy in Wrights store at the corner of Main and Mill Street. Mr. Wright was post master and Col. North in his old age vividly remembered getting up late at night to receive the mails."

He also tells of a visit of Dr. Timothy Dwight, Pres. of Yale College, who passed over the Catskill Turnpike and stopped at Unadilla.

"Two years after the road was built, Dr. Timothy Dwight, President of Yale College, during one of his regular vacation journeys, passed over it and stopped at Unadilla. He has left a full record of the journey and we must take this as probably the earliest account of Unadilla and the road that led to it, ever printed. Dr. Dwight accustomed long to the comforts of life in New England, had no sooner crossed the State line from Massachusetts to New York than he observed a change. The houses became ordinary and ill repaired and very many of them were taverns of wretched appearance.

"For sixteen or eighteen miles, he saw neither church nor

school house. Catskill contained about 100 houses, and much of the business was done by barter. The turnpike to the Susquehanna he described as a 'branch of the Greenwood turnpike from Hartford to Albany, commencing from Canaan in Connecticut and passing Wattles' Ferry on the Susquehanna. Thence it is proposed to extend it to the county of Trumbull on the southern shore of Lake Erie.' The road he thought 'well made.' Connecticut families were found settled along the line. Now he came upon 'a few lonely plantations recently begun upon the road' and then 'occasionally passed a cottage, and heard the distant sound of an axe and of a human voice. All else was grandeur, gloom and solitude.'

"At last after many miles of riding, he reached a settlement 'for some miles a *thickly* built village, composed of neat, tidy houses,' in which everything 'indicated prosperity.' This village was Franklin. Coming down the Ouleout the country he said 'wore a forbiddin aspect, the houses being thinly scattered and many of them denoted great poverty.'

"When Dr. Dwight reached Wattles' Ferry the more serious trials of his journey began. His experiences in Unadilla are described in a prolonged wail. All the privations of life in a new country which he had met with on the road from Catskill at last had overtaxed his patience and he poured forth his perturbed spirit upon this infant settlement. When he made a second visit a few years later he liked the place much better. His first unhappy visit is chronicled at some length in his book and shall be given here in a full abstract. Here is what he says:

"When we arrived at the Susquehanna we found the only inn keeper at the Eastern side of the river, unable to furnish us a dinner. To obtain this indispensable article we were obliged therefore to cross the river. The ferry boat was gone. The inhabitants had been some time employed in building a bridge, but it was unfinished and impassible. There was nothing left for us therefore, but to cross a deep and rapid ford. Happily the bottom was free from rocks and stones!

"Dr. Dwight appears to have found no satisfactory stopping place in the village and records that 'about four miles from the ferry we came to an inn kept by a Scotchman named Hanna. Within this distance we called at several others, none of which



could furnish us a dinner. I call them inns because this name is given them by the laws of the state, and because each of them hangs out a sign challenging this title. But the law has nicknamed them and the signs are liars.' Timothy Dwight was a Doctor of Divinity.

"William Hanna's hotel was situated in the Paper mill region—but just where I have never learned. Perhaps it was on the site, where for many years afterwards was kept the hotel known as Foster's. After general criticism of the state Dr. Dwight proceeds to record his experience in Mr. Hanna's hotel:

"We at length procured a dinner and finding no house at a proper distance where we could be lodged concluded to stay where we were. Our fare was indeed bad enough, but we were sheltered from the weather. Our inn keeper besides furnishing us with such other accommodations as his home afforded, added to it the pleasures of his company and plainly considered himself as doing us no small favor. In that peculiar situation in which the tongue vibrates with its utmost ease and celerity, he repeated to us a series of anecdotes null and vulgar in the extreme. Yet they all contained a season which was exquisite, for himself was in every case the hero of the tale, and the Merum Salof Athens could not be more delighted. To add to our amusement, he called for the poems of Allan Rumsey and read several of them to us and with a great self complacency as he proceeded.

"Dr. Dwight's name for this turnpike was the Susquehanna Turnpike instead of the Catskill. 'It commences' he says, 'at Catskill and terminates at Wattles' Ferry, is well made but passes over ground too uneven to be pleasant. A new turnpike road is begun from the ferry and intended to join the Great Western road from Utica either at Cayuga bridge or Canandaigua. This route will furnish a nearer journey to Niagara, than is used at present.'

"We see from this what were the plans of that day, as to the future central highway of New York State. Here again as matters turned, the route the Indians had employed was at last resorted by the White man when he chose the great central Indian trail running from Albany to Buffalo through the Mohawk Valley. Of Unadilla Dr. Dwight had this to say:

"That township in which we now are is named Unadilla and

lies in the county of Otsego. It is composed of rough hills and valleys with a handsome collection of intervalles along the Susquehanna. On a remarkably ragged eminence immediately north west of the river we saw the first oaks and chestnuts after leaving the neighborhood of Catskill. The intervening forests were beech, maple etc. The houses in Unadilla were scattered along the road which runs parallel with the river. The settlement is new and appears like most others of a similar date. Rafts containing each from twenty to twenty-five thousand feet of boards, are from this township floated down the Susquehanna to Baltimore. Unadilla contained in 1800 eight hundred and twenty-three inhabitants."

#### ELEVEN YEARS LATER

"In 1815 Dr. Dwight again passed over the turnpike from Catskill on his way to Utica. 'The road from Catskill to Oxford,' he said, 'I find generally bad, as having been long neglected. The first twenty miles were tolerable, the last twenty absolutely intolerable.' After noting that in Franklin 'religion had extensively prevailed' he said, 'Unadilla is becoming a very pretty village. It is built on a delightful ground along the Susquehanna and the number of houses, particularly of good ones, has much increased. A part of the country between this and Oxford is cultivated; a considerable part of it is still a wilderness. The country is rough and of a high elevation.'"

Colgate University and Yale University both acknowledged in letters from the library in behalf of their respective Universities, copies of *The Pioneers of Unadilla Village, 1784-1840* by Francis Whiting Halsey. These were presented by the Rev. erend Yale Lyon in 1925 and 1928 respectively.<sup>29</sup>

Death took its toll of prominent citizens and long-time residents of Unadilla. Milo C. Gregory, who was born in Unadilla on December 28, 1862, was a graduate of the old Unadilla Academy, and attended the Eastman Business College in Poughkeepsie. He was married to Miss Minerva Sewell on November 24, 1886. He established the O. and W. Coal Agency at South Unadilla and was at one time engaged in the insurance business and represented a large commission house of New York City. He was successful in the oil fields of Texas when in Houston in 1911 he conceived the idea which culminated in

the amalgamation of several small independent oil companies under the name of the Humble Oil and Refining Company. He was buried in St. Matthew's Cemetery. (1922.)<sup>30</sup>

Captain Francis D. Butler, called "The Grand Old Man" of Unadilla, was born in Unadilla Center on March 29, 1833. He was a veteran of the Civil War, mustered in as a private and discharged July 12, 1865, as a Captain. He was a carpenter by trade and had lived in Unadilla practically all of his life. He was survived by two sons, Frank E. Butler, Unadilla, and Willard S. Butler of LeGrande, Oregon, and also by a daughter, a brother and a sister. (1923.)<sup>31</sup>

F. J. Joyce, who had been one of the most prominent businessmen in the history of Unadilla died on July 5, 1925. Mr. Joyce was born in Unadilla, spent 9 years of his life in Nebraska, but returned to his home town and conducted a furniture and undertaking business which occupied one of the largest blocks in the village. His store was noted as carrying one of the largest stocks in the Susquehanna valley and one which attracted a large trade to Unadilla from the surrounding country. He was the son of George and Sarah Joyce and married Miss Ella Hotaling on July 8, 1886. Their only son, Lt. Whitney Joyce died in France on May 17, 1918. Mr. Joyce was a member of Freedom Lodge, F. & A.M., Royal Arch Chapter, Freedom Chapter, O.E.S., the Elks of Oneonta, G. L. Halsey Lodge, Encampment and Rebekah I.O.O.F. The funeral service was held in the St. Matthew's church and a large number of friends had to be turned away from the filled auditorium.

Elizabeth Fellows Gregory, who was born May 8, 1834, in the home in Unadilla in which she spent her golden wedding anniversary, and where she lived until the death of her husband, Milo B. Gregory, died at her residence in Auburn on April 23, 1923. This marked the passing of one of Unadilla's oldest and best known families. She was the daughter of the late Major Chris D. Fellows and Caroline Benton, who came to Unadilla in 1808. She received her early education in private schools and later in St. Mary's College in Burlington, New Jersey. She was married to Milo B. Gregory on June 18, 1860. She was survived by Caroline G. Griswold, her daughter and two grand-



daughters, Elizabeth and Priscilla Griswold and her son-in-law, George N. Griswold of Auburn.<sup>32</sup>

C. H. Dibble the jeweler who had been associated in the jewelry business for nearly 50 years, died about 1928 or 1929. He first went into business with his father who was killed 30 years previous in an attempt to save the life of another man who was walking on the railroad tracks. Mr. Dibble had been active in the Rod and Gun Club and had been treasurer for many years. He was also active in the H. Y. Canfield Hose Co. and took an interest in community affairs.<sup>33</sup>

Mrs. Amelia Teed died at the age of 81 in 1929 and had resided at the old home place on Martin Brook Road just above the village since 1880, except for four years which were spent in the Episcopal Rectory of this village. She was of Scotch descent and married Charles Jackson Teed in 1875.<sup>34</sup> Two sons still reside in Unadilla, Amasa J. who has been connected with the Unadilla Silo Co. for many years and Marvin D. who was a member of the faculty of the State Agricultural school in Cobleskill and who since has taken up his residence in his old home town in Unadilla, and is a member of the Historical committee, having given valuable service in that capacity.

Julia E. Woodruff, a life-long resident of the village was born here in 1852. She was the daughter of Henry S. and Salome (Carrington) Woodruff, and in her younger years had taught at the old district school which was located where the Teller residence stood, now the home of Robert Atkinson 1929.<sup>35</sup>

Carrington I. Hayes attended the old Village academy, learned the printing trade under Mr. Barlow, who has been referred to previously and his death occurred in the family homestead on east Main St. (built in 1804) in 1929.<sup>36</sup>

An event of historical interest during this decade was the elaborate observation of the 150th celebration of the Clinton-Sullivan excursion. The State of New York had decided to erect markers at various important points along the Clinton-Sullivan trail. One point was on the state road between Sidney and Bainbridge in plain sight of the junction of the Susquehanna and Unadilla Rivers. This point is located near the cottage owned by Sylvester A. Lord Sr. of Unadilla. Cost of

erecting the 35 markers was divided evenly between the state and the localities in which they were set up. The markers are of granite, six feet, six inches high, with bronze tablets on their faces.<sup>37</sup> The one at Unadilla is erected on the Community House lawn and was unveiled on Monday, May 27, 1930. "It was just 150 years ago that General James Clinton gave the order and the great dam which his soldiers had erected at the source of the Susquehanna at the outlet of Otsego lake was broken down and his troops and stores floated on the swollen waters down the winding river to make a junction with General Sullivan at Tioga point, now Athens, Pa. forever to put an end to the ravages of the Tories and their Indian allies. It was in August 1780 when the village, then call Albout, which existed at the mouth of the Ouelout just above Unadilla was destroyed by fire. There were 800 bushels of corn burned at that time. Another village was located across the Susquehanna in what is now the Sidney village, and still another village located along the low waters of the Unadilla river. These settlements were sometimes known collectively as Unadilla, although the one on the site of Sidney was often designated as Johnstown settlement before the war and Susquehanna Flats afterwards. Francis W. Halsey states in his book *The Pioneers of Unadilla*, "No part of New York State, not even the Mohawk Valley had been more constantly the scene of depredations, none had been so often used as a route of travel for small armies of Indians and Tories on the one hand and of American patriot soldiers on the other, none had now become a land of such utter desolation." <sup>38</sup>

The Daughters of the American Revolution assisted in the ceremonies represented by Mrs. Ella Joyce, Mrs. M. Seacord, Mrs. Evelyn Stearns, Mrs. Ethel Lewis. The marker was presented by Mr. Peter Nelson, Assistant State Historian, and accepted by Frederick T. Sherman. The principal address "Preserving Historical Monuments" was given by Congressman John D. Clark.<sup>39</sup>

The Rogers Hollow fair, held in connection with the school at Unadilla, was attended by large crowds. The Friends Church held the display of needlework and school work. Mrs. H. M. Vore and Miss Alice Bosserman had charge of this department. The principal of the Unadilla Central High School, Glenn C.

Harris was introduced, and his remarks were received with much interest for five schools in the Rogers Hollow Fair district sent many pupils to the high school at Unadilla. Superintendent John Fredericks of Oneonta had charge of the program and the Unadilla school band furnished the music.<sup>40</sup>

A colonial party was held in Mulford's Hall and the period of dress from 1830-1930 was displayed. Music was furnished for old-time as well as modern dancing, and the Unadilla waltz composed in 1863 by Hannah Halloway was played. She was a music teacher here.<sup>41</sup>

The census showed that the population of Unadilla had dropped from 2395 in 1920 to 2274 in 1930. A preliminary count of the incorporated village showed a drop of 94 inhabitants with a total population of 1063. Twelve farms enumerated within the village and 185 in the township.<sup>42</sup>

The final event of this decade was the celebration in 1930 of the Centennial of the Unadilla Center Church. Mr. William Barker whose death occurred in May 1953 has made available a booklet descriptive of this ceremony which was held on August 31 and September 1. This interesting booklet tells that "Sometime between the year 1792 and 1800 Billy Buckley a lad of about 18 years and his young wife of the same age came to this section from Albany and rolled up a log house about three quarters of a mile northeast of Unadilla Center, on what was later known as West Creek. He held a land warrant or patent for a large tract of land near the top of the hill. All about him was a trackless forest. The trails were marked trees. A road was soon opened to Gilbertsville and later a road was run to Unadilla village. Billy Buckley and his wife Mary Turner and their children gave up the first rough log cabin and erected a house of hewn logs on the four corners later known as Buckley Corners. This house was later replaced by a large frame house. His youngest son, Oliver E. Buckley came into possession of this farm at the age of 32 years in 1848. His youngest grandson, Henry H. Buckley, while a resident of Oneonta, New York and Pasadena California is hale and hearty in his 73rd year and much interested in this place, so full of rich associations for him. (1930) In 1809 Abel Holmes moved from Morris to Unadilla Center with a



family of fourteen children and braved the dangers from Indians and wild beasts. One daughter, Charlotte, later married Paul Palmer, a son, Amos, lived for many years here, but spent the last years of his life with his children in Unadilla. A great-grandson of Abel Holmes, William Barker, is well known and loved by us all.

"Unadilla Center was halfway between Gilbertsville and Unadilla and as the place developed became a stopping place for travelers. By 1820 A. M. Maxwell was running a hotel here. In 1823 Ebenezer Gregory married the daughter of James Maxwell and moved from Gilbertsville to Unadilla Center and in 1833 he hired Deacon Place and probably Phineas Reed to build him a stone house. These same men also built the stone house on the Monroe farm at East Guilford in 1832 and the Old Ferry house in 1834.

"The Unadilla Center Methodist Church was organized in 1830 and a church building erected that same year on a site near the present cemetery. But at that elevation 1790 ft. the wind had such a clear sweep and such a force that they were forced to move the church to its present site. Dr. Gaius L. Halsey of Unadilla mentions those winds. When he was visiting San Francisco in 1849 he was heard to exclaim "This is the windiest place I ever saw—worse than Unadilla Center!"

"Unadilla Center is no longer on the main road of travel, but its church and school still serve a large area. And because of those who have gone forth from its boundaries, its name is known in many places."

This church was early on what was known as the Otego circuit and this was organized at Unadilla Center in December 1833. Rev. Andrew Peck was the presiding Elder and Oliver Judson was the recording steward, and he has enumerated the names of those present.<sup>43</sup> The circuit included Unadilla Center, Schenevus, Laurens, Otego, Oneonta Plains, Milford Center, Otego Plains, Sand Hill 1846 and Unadilla 1849. In 1838 it was voted that the preacher in charge circulate a subscription for the relief of the parsonage and in the same year the Rev. Martin Marvin collected \$7.83 for the Bible society and was instructed to send the money to New York to purchase Bibles for the Buenos Aires Mission.

In 1852 this circuit was divided—Otego and Otsdawa became a station; Unadilla Center Creek and Sidney became a station; Unadilla Center, Sand Hill, Unadilla and Sidney Plains became a station. Oliver Buckley and Juliaett his wife presented the church with the bell that is now in the belfry as a thanksgiving offering for the preservation and safe return of their oldest son, Captain George Buckley from the Civil War.

Mr. William Barker (who died in 1953), previously referred to, recalls that his grandfather rode a bicycle when he was 91 years old and also makes mention of the fact that he can remember when Unadilla Center had a cheese factory, two blacksmith shops, a hotel and several stores, but that now only the church remains. The Unadilla Center church was remodeled in 1921, with a new cement approach and steps and a large commodious basement, 8 memorial art windows, new interior plastering, new floors laid, new pews, altar and complete pulpit furniture added. The expense was \$4,000.<sup>44</sup>

Very interestingly the book records the list of persons buried in the Unadilla Center Cemetery and the oldest monument seems to be in 1811 when Mrs. Mary Warriner died at the age of 100.<sup>45</sup> Certain it is that many of the pioneers of this section of Unadilla are buried here.

Revolutionary War soldiers buried in the cemetery are: Joseph Batterson, Major Seth Rowley, 2nd Samuel Bartholomew, Josiah Reed. War of 1812: John Fisk, Samuel Smith, John Smith.<sup>46</sup>

The booklet also contains many old photographs of the old stone house which was the family home of the Fairbanks. the Ferry home and the Unadilla Center hotel, along with pictures of the church.

Thus we come to the end of another important decade in the history of Unadilla. Much of interest occurred from 1920-30.

## FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 6

1. Yale Lyon *Scrapbook*, Vol. 5, May 9, 1921 to June 21, 1923, p. ix, "Community House to Be Formally Opened Memorial Day."
2. *Ibid.*, p. xxiii, "Community House Wins Approval."
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*, Vol. 6, June 21, 1923 to August 22, 1926, p. 84.
6. *Ibid.*, Vol. 5, May 9, 1921 to June 21, 1923, p. 126, "Last of the Fair."
7. Frederick Meeker, *Scrapbook A*, p. 87, second paragraph.
8. Yale Lyon *Scrapbook*, Vol. 5, May 9, 1921 to June 21, 1923, p. 41.
9. *Ibid.*, Vol. 6, June 21, 1923 to August 22, 1926, p. 22, "First Annual Banquet of Rod and Gun Club."
10. *Ibid.*, Vol. 5, May 9, 1921 to June 21, 1923, p. 146, "Reforestation in Unadilla Thoroughly Discussed."
11. *Ibid.*, p. 118, "Big Clam-bake!"
12. *Ibid.*, p. 100, "Community Services."
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Ibid.*, p. 98, "Fresh Air Children."
15. *Ibid.*
16. *Ibid.*, p. 75.
17. *Ibid.*
18. *Ibid.*, Vol. 6, June 21, 1923 to August 22, 1926, p. 203, "Alumni Hold Annual Banquet at Tianaderrah."
19. *Ibid.*, p. 56, "Honor Walton's Founders at Unveiling of Memorial."
20. *Ibid.*, p. 118.
21. *Ibid.*, p. 180, "Businessmen's Meeting a Success."
22. *Ibid.*
23. *Ibid.*, p. 198.
24. *Ibid.*, Vol. 7, August 22, 1926 to May 15, 1931, p. 48, "Women's Club Notes."
25. *Ibid.*, p. 69.
26. *Ibid.*, p. 179, "Clock Restored at St. Matthew's."
27. *Ibid.*, p. 245, "Main Street's Beauty Menaced."
28. *Ibid.*
29. *Ibid.*, Vol. 6, June 21, 1923 to August 22, 1926, p. 145, and Vol. 7, p. 118.
30. *Ibid.*, Vol. 5, May 9, 1921 to June 21, 1923, p. 132.
31. *Ibid.*, p. 167, "A Tribute."
32. *Ibid.*, Vol. 7, August 22, 1926 to May 15, 1931, p. 200, "Maggie Day Dies Tuesday."
33. *Ibid.*, p. 202.
34. *Ibid.*, p. 211.
35. *Ibid.*, p. 226.
36. *Ibid.*, p. 234.
37. *Ibid.*, p. 237, "Clinton-Sullivan 150th Celebration."
38. *Ibid.*, p. 237, "Sesqui-Centennial Event Monday."
39. *Ibid.*, p. 237.
40. *Ibid.*, p. 244, "Large Crowd at School Fair."
41. *Ibid.*, p. 304, "The Colonial Party."
42. *Ibid.*, p. 311, "Unadilla Loses 121."
43. Booklet given by William Barker, *Unadilla Center Church 1830-1930*, p. 4, "In the Otego Circuit."
44. *Ibid.*, p. 11.
45. *Ibid.*, p. 24.
46. *Ibid.*, p. 19.



## CHAPTER 7

### 1930-1940

THE DECADE from 1930-1940 has several significant events. The construction of a new school building following the centralization of the schools in the towns of Unadilla, Sidney and Butternuts marked one of the progressive steps in the development and enlargement of the school. Unadilla suffered a severe flood when the East Sidney Dam broke. This was followed within a few months by a hurricane. The Rotary Club was organized and late in the decade the first old Home Day was celebrated. These and other events are recounted in the history of this period.

It is interesting to follow the development of the school system. Early in the settlement of Unadilla it was necessary to establish a public school, and mention has already been made of the early town records which show that the town meeting was held in 1797 in the school house near Daniel Bissell's home. Canile Bissell was one of the important early settlers. It was he who erected one of the first grist mills in Unadilla—about 1790—at the spot where Martin Brook enters the Susquehanna.<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that the direction of Martin Brook has been changed and that it formerly entered the Susquehanna near Carl Vintons at the site of the old Canfield condenseries occupied now by the York Modern Corporation. The supply of water in the brook was diminished by the building of dams farther up the stream, as indicated in one of the early records.<sup>2</sup> It became necessary to get additional water power about 1803. This was secured from the river by a small raceway called the "Binniekill."<sup>3</sup>

The school houses stood near Daniel Bissell's house which we understand is the residence where Mrs. George Mulford now lives. Unadilla township contained 823 inhabitants in 1800 and there was certainly need of a school. No records seem to be available of this early educational institution. Probably, it was a one room rude log structure in which the schoolmaster kept school during the three winter months only.

There is available in the present high school office the record of an early school meeting. Curtis Noble was the clerk and in his careful, beautiful hand is written the following record: "At a meeting of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of District #5 in the Town of Unadilla held at the school house on Tuesday, June 8th, 1813. Isaac Hayes chosen moderator, Curtis Noble, clerk; Uriah Hanford, Sherman Page and Solomon Martin, trustees and Daniel Cone, collector: Voted: That the trustees be instructed and that they are thereby directed to examine and determine whether any and on what terms a convenient site can be had to erect a school house upon, and make a report to the next meeting. VOTED: That this meeting be adjourned to Saturday the 19th. Adjourned." <sup>4</sup>

Miss Frances Freeman records that the old book in which this history is written, together with all subsequent records down to 1846, is on file at the school. Among those records, written in the long-hand style of the time, are found items relating to the details of school administration, which are of special interest. Here one finds the written history of the struggle to establish and maintain what to even these pioneers was considered a cornerstone in their civilization—a public school. Mr. Gilson Slater and Miss Anna Eells have assisted with the following record.

"In July of 1820 a site was secured from Robert Harper of Windsor the consideration being 'one dollar and other divers good causes and considerations him thereunto moving.' It is the place where the Teller residence now stands [1953 residence of Robert Atkinson] anciently known as the 'Harper Lot.' Plenty of room, except for the church there was at that time no building standing on that side of Main Street from Mill down to Page Street. The building was of wood, 22 feet by 34 feet, two stories high. John Bottom was the builder. A 'bee' was held soon afterward attended by all the inhabitants who 'were so disposed' to level the grounds. During the next ten years, the records show differences of opinion on which items as paying for a dipper, painting the water pail and getting a 'broome.' (It had been voted in 1816 to buy a site and move the present building onto it. Evidently from 1813 to 1816 there was some sort of school building elsewhere). Arnold B. Watson was the

first teacher of the 'upper department' of this so-called classical school. He began his educational labors here in 1821. The school then registered about 30 scholars.

"This was the first real public school in Unadilla for former teachers had charged tuition for all pupils at such rates as 'Reading scholars, twelve shillings (\$1.50) the quarter; writing and grammar scholars, sixteen shillings (\$2.00) the quarter; and board himself.' Evidently these shillings were his only salary and the district furnished the school house, furniture and fuel. In some cases he 'boarded around' then the tuition was less. The registration of these early schools increased, especially in the lower grades. This crowded condition gave rise to the so-called select schools.

"These private schools were usually conducted for small children only by some woman whose household duties did not take up all her time. Generally the school room was in the teacher's own home. Here she instructed the little children of the neighborhood in reading, writing, and spelling, sometimes arithmetic, all for a modest remuneration. In their day these select schools rendered good service, for there beginners could get individual instruction. In the public school the 'down stairs' teacher taught all eight grades in all subjects every day—no wonder the select schools were well patronized.

"Sometimes older girls were taken—young ladies as they were then called. A Miss Seymour from Connecticut kept such a school here in 1828, the first select school in Unadilla. About that same time Miss Mary Scott, a sister-in-law of General Solomon Martin, opened a school for beginners in her home which stood on the site of Mr. Brion's residence now occupied by Miss Emma Curtis (the former Sweet home owned by Mrs. Brion). For many years Miss Harriet Eells kept select school in her father's home on West Main Street—the house that is now Miss Harriet Belknap's residence.

"More recently the Misses Kate and Nettie Raitt taught in the 'stoneoffice' (the law office of Judge George Noble, Curtis Noble's son, previously referred to) on the site of Dr. F. S. Heimer's home, and Miss Julia Packard conducted an excellent school in her home which was over the old post office. Miss Elizabeth Clark kept the last select school in Unadilla in her



home on Church Street—many of my readers can remember attending it. With improved facilities for public instruction the need for this type of school has disappeared.

“The public school was soon called a district and was so crowded that the trustees prohibited using the rooms for ‘religious meetings and other moral and scientific conventions.’ A man who attended that school long ago tells me it was understood among the older boys that the fence surrounding the property must be torn down each year. Had the trustees known of this plan they would no doubt have used other measures than patiently rebuilding the fence every summer and commenting on the destructive habits of children. This school house (the one on the site of Robert Atkinson’s property on Main Street) was in use until 1885.

“As the population of the village increased the need for a school of higher education was increasingly felt. Academies were appearing in all the larger towns of New York State—the forerunners of our modern high schools.

“Arnold B. Watson was the man who possessed the foresight and energy to promote such an enterprise. A stock company was formed and a building for an Academy was erected in 1850, costing \$3000. It was chartered under the Board of Regents in 1851. The trustees named on that charter are: Arnold B. Watson, Abiel D. Williams, Erastus Kingsley, Clark I. Hayes, L. L. Woodruff, William T. Thompson, Evan-der Odell, E. M. Packard, Joel Bragg, J. C. Gregory, G. R. Forster and S. G. Cone. Its purpose was to furnish a grade of education beyond the common schools to prepare the children for college and to instruct in ancient languages, literature and political economy. In August 1875 Colonel Samuel North arranged an endowment for the Academy from money the town had received from the sale of Albany and Susquehanna railroad stock. [It is interesting to note that the technical name of the present school is the Unadilla Central School and Academy, in order that this endowment for the Academy may be continued in the present school system, and following the merger of the Academy and the Union school.]

“The first principal was DeWitt Baker, followed by Mr. Ely A. E. Sweet, Prof. R. L. Thatcher [you will remember that this

was the gentleman referred to in a previous chapter where an account of his activity was given in the newspaper entitled "The Young American," published in Sidneyville in 1859. The article indicated that he was responsible for an increase of enrollment from approximately 30 pupils to over 80.] Mr. Webster, S. E. Smith, F. Bragg, F. B. Arnold, J. W. Willitts, J. O. Griffin, Rev. D. E. Loveridge, Emmett Belknap, R. F. Sullivan, Lincoln A. Groat [Rev. Loveridge was one of the rectors of the St. Matthew's Church, and there seems to be historical proof of the fact that during his stay in Unadilla there was an attempt made to change the course of Martin Brook and alterations were being made on St. Matthew's at the same time. Rev. Loveridge's young son fell into Martin Brook and was drowned. Miss Emily Loveridge, Rev. Loveridge's daughter, was a famous nurse and her death occurred in this decade of 1930-1940. Her father was the rector between 1879 and 1889. Mr. Loveridge made the chancel which is now in St. Matthew's Church, as well as various others of the furnishings. The pulpit in the Presbyterian church was also the handiwork of Mr. Loveridge. Miss Loveridge, whose death is recorded was an instructor in the school here for some time.] <sup>5</sup>

"This was the school that for nearly half a century touched the life of practically every young person on this vicinity. To it are traceable in large part the elevated educational tastes of which our older residents are justly proud.

"As far back as 1869 there was talk of replacing the old district school building with a larger new one but it was not until 1885 that a condition was reached where something had to be done. The question of a site, the cost of a new building that must house 150 children were all well discussed. At that time the possibility of merging the common school with the private academy appealed to many as the logical solution of the existing difficulty. In fact, committees from both schools conferred and jointly recommended such a merger, but the taxpayers voted it down.

"At last M. P. Sweet brought forward plans that were satisfactory both as to cost and seating capacity. The new district school building was located across the D. & H. tracks on Martin Brook Street. It was used from its completion in 1887

until 1893, when after much discussion the people concluded to join the public school with the Academy under the name Unadilla Union School and Academy.

"The building to house both schools was erected on the site of the old Academy and when completed in 1893 it was abundantly large for all eight grades and four years of high school. Its appearance reflected the good taste of the Board of Education who at the time were R. K. Teller, Pres.; M. Robinson, John D. Leith, George W. Mulford and J. Frank White. In it many excellent principals have kept schools that were credit to the community. M. J. Fletcher was the first principal of the Union School. Following him were A. E. Barnes, Roger A. Spencer, Frank Stanbro, Charles Todd, B. W. Conrad, Cora Foster, J. E. Smith and Glenn C. Harris, Mr. Harris was the last principal of the Union School and the first of the Centralized District.

"Recently (1933-34) the overcrowding due to consolidating the curriculum has made a larger building necessary. The Centralized District No. 2 Towns of Unadilla Sidney and Butternuts, has erected an imposing new building on the old High School site and enlarged the grounds by the purchase of adjoining lands.

"The new Board of Education representing the entire District are: Harry W. Sutton, Pres.; J. Stanley Earl; Harold York; Howard Wilbur; Henry Vore; Emily Carpenter, Clerk; Carlton Pomeroy, Treasurer.

"The new building stands as a successor and descendant of those whose history we have here traced. To this school comes an honorable heritage. We are confident that it will be worthy of that inheritance and that the future of our alma mater may be even finer than the past." <sup>6</sup>

The cornerstone of the present school building was laid with Masonic ceremonies in August 1934. The selection of the site was an interesting development. The State Department at Albany had insisted that the present location of the school was not adequate by reason of the increased requirements for playground facilities. Several other sites were suggested, one of them on the river flat west of Church Street which at that time was undeveloped. However, there appeared a strong senti-



ment that the present location of the school on upper Main Street was most desirable. The State Department at Albany reluctantly gave permission for the new building to be erected and only after a house on the corner of Noble and Main Streets and the old Watson home, previously referred to, about opposite the F. H. Meeker residence, had been purchased. The demolition of these two buildings and the resulting increased area for school playgrounds made possible the approval of the present site plus the fact that the community house grounds were available. The old school building was demolished and the stones from the foundation were purchased by the Evergreen Hill Cemetery Association and were used in the beautiful walls and gateways at the cemetery.

Conrad and Cummings, Architects, of Binghamton, designed the building, and it was erected with Federal assistance during the period of the depression when Public Works Administration was one of the Government organizations for assisting in construction work in order to provide local employment. At the time it was completed its cost was approximately \$200,000, which was considered a very reasonable figure for the amount of cubic feet of contents of the building. Unadilla had decided that it wanted no fancy work in its school, and kept the cost of the building at its reasonable figure, while insisting on good construction.

Difficulty was soon encountered in the basement with water conditions because of the low level as compared to the bed of the Susquehanna River nearby. However, in the course of years, this difficulty has been largely taken care of by the installation of pumps and an emergency system of generating electricity so that even in the event of a breakdown in public utilities, the pumps, oil and coalburning stokers can still be utilized.

At the time of the erection of the new school building, school was held in various buildings all over the community. The old Watson house was used for several classrooms. The H. Y. Canfield Hose House, the Methodist Church, the Community House and various other locations were all pressed into service while the school was being rushed to completion.

The separate gymnasium and auditorium which had been

built in 1920 proved of great value. The State Department had condemned the use of the public auditorium on the third floor of the old school building and rather than erect a new school building at the time, a bond issue was authorized May 23, 1927 and a building erected in the rear of the school, connected by passageways past the old power plant and the training class rooms. The contractor on this job was Andrew J. Fairbanks and the approximate cost to the voters was \$45,-000. It is interesting to note that following two other remodelings this building is still in use and is serving a very worthwhile purpose. It was remodeled once at the same time the new school building was erected to include the shop and to serve as a garage for the busses. About 1950 it was again remodeled with music and art rooms on the second story and re-location of the shop in the old garage section, and the addition of other classrooms. The school district, in the meantime, had purchased the old Whitaker & Son garage on Martin Brook Street, for garage purposes. The rapidly increasing number of buses required much additional space for storage and service.

A building on Noble Street was also purchased and remodeled and made into the kindergarten, with homemaking rooms on the second floor. This building, adjacent to the school grounds, has proved of great value and has given excellent service for both of these classes. The kindergarten consists of the younger children, being by themselves in a separate unit of the school, and the homemaking class having an actual apartment-type classroom with kitchen and living room, and homemaking facilities contained in the unit.

In 1947 there was a long-range Educational Service Committee set up which, after many months of study, gave recommendations to the school through its Board of Education, many of which were adopted. At that time, they predicted a great increase population of the whole area, occasioned by the coming and expansion of the Scintilla Magneto Division of Bendix Corporation at Sidney. Various adjustments and accommodation in the school system have had to be made, involving transportation, housing, the program of lunches in the cafeteria etc. The school is again bursting at the seams, with two full classes in

all the grades up through the seventh grade. This bulge, which was predicted, materialized and it has been necessary to have two classes of each grade with a necessary increase in teaching staff as well as the accommodation of the pupils. Another long-range educational survey is in process, with John Franklin Van Cott as chairman of the general committee. It is quite probable that some sort of a building program will be necessary either in the enlargement of the present school, or in the building of separate units for either the high school or the first six grades. 1953 school budget was \$225,000 and in 1956 school budget was \$346,829.

At the present time (1955) a new 2 story wing containing 8 class rooms and cafeteria is being erected on the West side of the present building. Myron Jordon, Richfield Springs was the Architect and Holloway Associates, Delhi, General Contractors. The present board of Education consists of Clarence Russell, Pres., Charles Fisk, Kenneth Truhn, Dr. McKown and Frank Favreau.

There was first submitted a proposal to purchase land on the east of Clifton St. in the old fair ground site, belonging at the time to Guy Stanton and to erect a new grade school. This however did not meet with favor and the proposal was defeated.

A new proposition was then submitted to the voters on June 25, 1954 involving the erection of the new wing, alterations in present building, purchase of additional land on the east side of Noble St. for athletic field and play ground purposes, the estimated cost being \$379,700. This proposal was approved and the work is being done. Meantime two grades are meeting in rooms provided by the Methodist Church, and one grade meets over the new fire station on Clifton St.

The brochure prepared by the Board says: "Our problem is children . . . too many for present facilities." They are entering at the rate of 25 a year. The present facilities will accommodate from 550 students. We now have 640 enrolled. Within 5 years we should have an enrollment of 765 students. These figures are not estimates, the children have been born, and are on their way to school.



## WE MUST MAKE ROOM FOR THEM

"The Board of Education submits for your consideration a solution to this pressing problem. It proposes an addition to the present plant to house an additional 250 students. It will provide eight grade rooms, one large high school study hall, one conference room, one combination cafeteria-grade gymnasium, one kitchen, one grade faculty room, toilets, and storage facilities. Minor alterations in the present building will provide for a nurse's room, office and storage space, and an additional boiler in the present furnace room. The Board of Education also proposes the purchase of approximately four acres of available land for school use. We believe it meets the needs of our program and is deserving of your support."

So once again the citizens of Unadilla have faced their educational problems and attempted to meet the needs. Our school continues its fine reputation and heritage from the past under the supervision of Mr. Gilson Slater, principal whose efficient work and careful attention have been noteworthy along with the splendid efforts of the Board and the staff of the school.

Mention should be made in any report of the history of the Unadilla schools of the faithful and sacrificial work of the members of the Board of Education. These men who have served without financial reimbursement, have given largely of their time and energy that the children of our community have the best possible educational advantages. Much has been done in our state in the development of educational advantages for rural children so that the young people of a community such as Unadilla might have the advantages of the best in education. To the members of the Board of Education we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for their untiring efforts. Their service is not often recognized, but their work on behalf of Unadilla youth has been of inestimable value.

Any record of the history of the Unadilla schools should certainly contain mention also of the loyalty and the devotion of the teachers. In more recent years, the outstanding work of Mrs. Mabel Bailey and Mrs. Clara Sisson come to mind. They are recognized as having made superior contributions to the development of and training in the school. Mrs. William

Dickson, for many years connected with the training class comes under this category of service for others, and in mentioning these three we would in no way take away the credit due a host of others, who, in faithful and unselfish service, have made their splendid contribution to the educational training of Unadilla's young people.

The present District Superintendent of schools, Mr. Harold C. Tyson, Supervisor of the 4th District in Otsego County, resides in Unadilla. The present principal Gilson M. Slater has made in the period of service in Unadilla a distinct contribution to the success of our school.

The school has had its ups and downs just like any other institution and at the present time is in one of its periods of progress with a fine cooperative spirit among the citizens of the community, the faculty, the Board of Education and the students. (The Wells Bridge district so-called, has been set into the Unadilla Central School, and the process of adjustment in that point is now receiving attention.

Harold Tyson Supt. of Schools makes this interesting comment: From the 1930's onward there has taken place in the Unadilla Central School and Academy a marked change in educational policies.

The old policy represented the more conservative educational policy of the old academics. That is, it was a cultural training with the more or less definite aim of preparation for college, normal school or other higher institutions of learning. But for the large majority of high school pupils the aim was indefinite. It required an "academic mind" to complete the four-year requirements. Far too many left school in discouragement because of their inability to meet academic requirements. Thus so many young people who had real ability and worthwhile interests found no opportunity for training or expression, and received too little encouragement in school. As a by-product of this situation the "failures" went back into the local community and the "successes" went into higher training and commonly went out of the community.

The newer educational policy recognizes that it is a pernicious educational shortcoming for any school to instill a sense of educational failure in a youth's life—it should rather instill

a sense of achievement. Since achievement varies with ability and interest, a school which does not recognize and cater to a wide range of ability and interest is not fulfilling its function.

The changes that took place in Unadilla Central School and Academy in the early 1930's reflect the changes taking place in the whole field of secondary education. These changes are largely the result of a demand of young people themselves rather than the planned intention of school administrators who recognized the inadequacy of former practices. Even now the schools are tardy in keeping pace with the educational needs of the times or in planning the changing world to come.

It has not been easy for public understanding to keep up with this revolution in education, either in accepting changes or supporting them. Centralization started in New York State in 1925. Unadilla Central School was organized in 1934. Today 1953 most of the State is centralized. Unadilla, although a conservative community, deserves great commendation for early recognizing and accepting the new education *philosophy* and becoming a centralized school. The fact that these changes have been brought about with so little disturbance speaks well for the tactful and careful planning and action of our Boards of Education.

What are some of these changes which offer greater service to every boy and girl and recognize their individual differences?

Industrial arts was the first department formed and has been of interest and great value from the beginning. I believe it is safe to say it has kept many boys in school who would otherwise have left.

This may also be said of Home Economics which was organized the year following and is today a strong department in our school.

Agriculture was also introduced at this time and for a number of years served the interests of the boys until Unadilla became more interested in industrial life due to the rapid growth of Scintilla at nearby neighboring Sidney.

In 1933 the Commercial department was organized and today is recognized as one of the strong and essential branches of the school curriculum.

The Art department came into being in 1934 and has so



grown in importance that it is today housed in a fine up to date art room fully equipped for art and ceramics. Further than the art work extends down into all the grades and is correlated with other subjects.

Music had a minor place in the school curriculum until today it is one of the outstanding offerings in this school. The interest has so grown and the demand of parents and pupils has become so great that for the school year 1953-1954 an additional music teacher is being added to the faculty.

The library existed prior to centralization but more or less as a side issue or lending library. Today the school library is quite complete and has a fully qualified librarian who devotes at least half of the school day to library services not only for the secondary level but for the elementary level as well.

Health Service—little known prior to 1930 became a part time service in which a school nurse was employed and shared on a half day basis with Otego. The demands upon the school nurse became increasingly great and this past year 1952-1953 a full time nurse was employed. This service has come to be indispensable and a proper protection is afforded the children in case of contagion as well as a training in health habits required by the state.

Cafeteria: The preparation and serving of food was begun on October 1, 1935. Free milk was also served to the children of the lower grades. The value of a cafeteria with hot lunches and a balanced menu speaks for itself.

Reading now recognized as most essential in aiding pupils to succeed needs the assistance of a trained expert to work with and help both teachers and pupils. Through the services of the Otsego County Vocational and Educational Board the school employs such a trained instructor on a part time basis.

This Otsego County Board also offers part time services in Guidance, Dental Hygiene and Social Case Workers, all of which Unadilla Central School participates in, to the advantage of the child on an individual basis.

Audio-visual education, a service recently added to the school curriculum, is one of the best in this area and is used at all levels of instruction from kindergarten through high school.

This school has equipment equal to any of its size and even better than many larger schools.

Adult Education: A demand has finally made itself known amongst the adults of our community and \$2000.00 was included in the budget voted at the 1953 July annual meeting. The school wants to serve the adults of its community and its schools hope that this demand will increase.

We are proud of our school but no school has a right to become complacent. No matter how smooth its routine, how good its instruction, how satisfactory its results, its theory and practice should always be under scrutiny. There are always problems not completely solved. Right now our greatest is expansion. We are bulging and breaking out at the seams. The Board of Education together with a Citizens Planning Committee is wrestling with this problem and hopes very soon to offer to the voters of this district one or more suggested solutions for their consideration and action. If the citizens of this school district and "Village Beautiful" continue their interest and support as they have in the past twenty years since Centralization, our problems will again be solved and we will continue on for at least another twenty years with as much progress as we have seen in the past twenty.

On July 12, 1935 the East Sidney Dam broke. There was apparently a cloudburst in this section of the country. There was considerable flood damage in Franklin and in Otego as evidenced by the fact that there were 23 bridges washed out in Franklin township.

The cloudburst occurred Sunday night in the head of the Ouleout Creek and the streams feeding it, and the dam at Treadwell caused the difficulty in Franklin and was no doubt, largely responsible for the destruction of the East Sidney Dam. It was reported that no mail went from Franklin until 5:00 on Monday. No rural routes were served and the town was completely isolated. A concrete bridge at Bartlett Hollow went out Sunday night. A summer cottage on the Ouleout back of the Thompson farm was washed down to Walter McIntosh's and lodged in the willows there.

The same flood which extended down the Ouleout Creek caused the embankment on the East Sidney Dam to wash

away, at first running over the top. The stream gradually turned to the side of the dam and washed away about thirty feet of the embankment and carried it down stream. Three persons narrowly escaped death. They were Mr. and Mrs. L. Warder and infant son, who were camping at a point a short distance above the dam. The report indicates that: "They were camping in a small house trailer. Dr. and Mrs. A. C. McClelland and son, Richard of Walton who had been camping nearby, broke camp and started from their home in Walton about 10:00 o'clock Sunday night. Arriving at the bridge which crosses the Bartlett Hollow creek, they found it washed out, making a continuation of their progress toward Walton impossible. They returned to the cottage to spend the night and noticed upon their return that the water had risen so high that the Warder trailer and car were about half submerged in water. The three occupants were still asleep. Richard dashed into the trailer and succeeded in awakening the family, who vacated immediately in their night clothes. The family lost all of their possession except the clothes they were wearing when they escaped, although Mr. Warder made an attempt to reach the trailer and save the family's money. The water was up to his neck and he was forced to abandon the attempt. In a comparatively short time the car and trailer were covered with water and washed downstream.<sup>7</sup>

Cattle on the Sweet farm were carried down the river as far as the White City Stock Farm. Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Kittell, with her daughter Joanne, were removed from the cottage belonging to the Sweets on the river bank over the porch roof. Someone suggested that the large fireplace in the cottage held the building on its foundation for Dr. Sweet estimated that the river was 15 feet higher than normal at that point.

The old Covered Bridge over the Ouleout on the Sweet farm withstood the storm. For many years it had weathered storms of a less severe nature and 12 feet of earth was washed away from the east end of the bridge, but it still stands, one of the last remaining relics of this type of Covered Bridge in this locality. Now in 1956 we must regretfully record that the old Covered Bridge has been torn down by Jess Howes Contractor and Delaware County is replacing it with a modern iron bridge



to convey the heavy traffic. It was built in 1879 and was for many years on the main route of travel. Since the state highway Route 7 is now on the west side of the river the old covered bridge is spared some of the heavy traffic. It is now posted for 4 ton loads. Mr. and Mrs. George Genung gave us information concerning the building of the bridge with lumber and timbers from the Little York region near Trout Creek. S. L. Youmans, Mrs. Genung's grandfather, and her father F. R. Youmans took the contract for labor and materials at about \$1800 and built the bridge.

In Crookerville the only house to be flooded was that of Cone Brundage. Here about 20 inches of water ran over the first floor. "Elmer Bookhout who owns the Island farm is reported to have suffered especially heavy damage. All of his crops, including his hay were destroyed. He and his wife went to the barn to milk early in the morning. Shortly after Mrs. Bookhout went across the bridge going from the house to the barn, the bridge was washed out and the couple were marooned in the barn. He remained in the barn during the day with the cattle. His dinner was carried to him by the Tyson boys in a canoe, which was the only means by which the barn could be reached. Mr. Bookhout lost a pocketbook containing seventy dollars while he was getting the cows in the barn. The bridge which was carried away at his farm is to be erected immediately and concrete abutments are to be used in its construction."<sup>8</sup>

The morning train from Albany safely crossed over the Sidney-Unadilla Railroad Bridge which is located about one mile east of Sidney and at this time the center pier is said to have settled approximately 5 inches. Passenger train No. 2 which is due in Unadilla at 10:29 upon arriving at the bridge was held there as the bridge was becoming unsafe and it was only a few minutes before it toppled over into the torrents which had undermined the pier on the southbound track. Passengers are now being transported between the two villages by auto which greatly hampers traveling by rail at present. The moving of freight is also paralyzed and as yet repairs are impossible due to the great amount of water at this point.<sup>9</sup>

In Unadilla itself there was considerable damage of flooded cellars and to cars parked in the garages along low levels. The

cottages owned by Walter Hunt on the bank of the Susquehanna River now owned and occupied by the Donofrio family, since owned by Bergers, was set on concrete piers. The water rushed under the cottage and through the windows. Campers who were occupying the cottage at the time had to flee hurriedly and were taken out safely by rowboats. The garage and property of Theron Ingalls now owned by Kenneth Davis were considerably damaged. Practically all the cellars on Watson St. and many on Main St. were filled causing considerable damage. Over 150 cellars in the village were flooded. Help was given by about 100 C.C.C. boys (Civilian Conservation Camp) from Gilbert Lake camp who worked about a week cleaning cellars, spreading lime etc. Wayne L. Tyson first Democratic supervisor in many years assisted greatly in this work of rehabilitation.

The dam which was washed away was one which had been constructed by a private power company and the United States Army Engineers on this same location have now erected a Federal Flood Control Dam at a cost of approximately  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars. Since the dam does not impound any sizable body of water there is very little probability of a recurrence of the disaster here recorded.

On August 21, 1936 a cyclone hit Unadilla. At infrequent intervals we have had small twisters or hurricanes which have worked havoc with the old elm and maple trees. This was a particularly serious one which did a great deal of damage to the village. Trees uprooted in nearly every section of the town. Many houses were damaged. The store house of the York Modern Corp. was demolished, the road working machinery stored there being badly damaged. Telephone and electric men worked at restoring the service, together with the street commissioners. The cyclone occurred on Saturday afternoon about 6:00 p.m. It was accompanied by a cloud burst and a severe electric storm. The home of James Vail was struck by lightning where it did considerable damage to the chimney. The cyclone seemed to come directly out of the north and much of the damage was the result of falling trees.<sup>10</sup>

On December 7, 1937, the Unadilla Rotary Club was organized. It has been of considerable benefit to our community. Its history of accomplishments, particularly in the field of com-

munity service, has been outstanding. Glenn C. Harris was its first president and the organization was effected by the Oxford Rotary Club and with the assistance of Rotarians from Oneonta including I. J. Bookhout and Jerry Wilson. The charter was presented by George Bain Cummings, District Governor of Binghamton and the Charter Night celebration was held in the Unadilla Central School. Possibly the first and only time in Rotary history, charters were issued to four clubs in the same district on the same date. In the district known as the 253rd then known as the 177th, the four clubs receiving the charter on the same day were Sidney, N.Y. Worcester, N.Y. Schenevus, N.Y. and Unadilla, N.Y. Charter members of the Unadilla Rotary Club were: F. G. Constable, J. Stanley Earl, Lynn Earl, George Gillon, Maxwell Gregory, Glenn Harris, F. S. Heimer, Robert Homan, Walter Hunt, Fred Feltz, August Kehr, William Krick, Livingston Latham, Raymond Lord, George Silvernell, Howard Smith, Dr. Harry Sutton, Harvey Westcott, Carl Pomeroy and Paul Sisson. The auditorium of the Unadilla Central School was decorated with flags of all nations and a turkey supper was served by the women of the Methodist Church. The invocation was given by Rev. Leon Bouton of Oxford and Walter L. Hunt gave the welcome to 125 guests. The main address of the evening was given by Past District Governor Glyndon Crooker of Cortland and the charter presented by District Governor George Bain Cummings. Rotary clubs represented were Schenevus, Cobleskill, Stamford, Oneonta, Worcester, Sidney, Oxford, Green, Norwich, Binghamton, Johnson City, Cortland.<sup>11</sup>

This is the period when the Unadilla clergy held the record for the tallest pastors. A picture of five Unadilla clergymen in which everyone is six feet or over discloses Rev. Yale Lyon, 6' 1¼ (Episcopal), Father John K. Kavanaugh, 6' 4" (Catholic) ("and still growing" he said recently), Rev. Stanley V. Tood (Federated), 6'7", Dr. Sidney E. Hunt, retired Methodist minister, 6' 1½", and Rev. T. Ashton Rich (Methodist) 6' 1".<sup>12</sup>

The people of the community were discussing the mystery of the mausoleum in Chestnut Hill Cemetery at Sidney. Dexter



Teed, NAE service writer, reported shortly after the death of Mary Wright December 23, 1931 as follows:

"Sidney, N. Y. Dec. 23: No one knew what was in her mind. For years Mary Wright with her back ground of Indian ancestry had been a puzzle.

"There seemed no purpose in her life but work—and more work. She saved her money. For what? She never married and nobody was dependent upon her.

"But work she did, from before dawn until late at night. She was a cook in a hotel at Unadilla for 27 years. Then she bought a farm two miles away and afternoons she tramped to it, in rain or snow. In the fields, she labored, picking up stones, pitching hay, doing a man's job.

"And then at night she went back to the hotel to work some more—a rubber booted dark clothed figure plodding through the dusk, a woman of mystery and of unguessed determination.

"At times she was proud. If it suited her fancy she would bedeck herself in gaudy clothing of bright colors, garnished with frills and feathers. Then they said that before she became an old woman, when she was young and pretty, she had been in love. What happened to the romance? No one knew.

"Some said she was wealthy and it was known that she had saved a large sum. Yet when anybody asked her what she was going to do with her money, her reply was, 'Wait and you'll see.'

"Sometimes as she approached 80, she spoke of death. It wasn't that she feared death, she said, but she didn't want to be put in the cold ground.

"Recalling that it was an Indian custom to bury the dead on scaffolding high above the earth, some believe that she had merely been affected by an ages-old tradition. Did she adhere to the pagan beliefs of her ancestors? That could not be said, for at one time she told Rev. Yale Lyon that she might join the Episcopal church. She never did.

"Public curiosity increased as the time passed.

"And then one day in the cemetery here half a dozen men went to work. Trucks carried marble and granite to a lot fronting on the main road. With chisel and hammer they labored, and gradually as days passed a mausoleum was erected. It was

larger than those of wealthy men buried there; it was larger than any in the section.

"When it was finished a cutter carved these tall letters:  
'MARY M. WRIGHT.'

"It caused something of a sensation in the section when it was generally known that Mary Wright, cook, farmer, Indian descendant, had spent nearly all of the thousands of dollars she had saved to build a mausoleum.

"But that wasn't all. Her face glowed with happiness and pride. She had reached her goal.

"Often she went there. She had the interior furnished and she would sit in a rocking chair, slowly rocking back and forth. It seemed as though she was accustoming herself to the surroundings where she would rest when she was dead.

"And then one day she died. She died very suddenly in the Unadilla House where she had worked so long. There was supposed to have been a will but the proprietor, Albert Fluckiger couldn't find it. That didn't matter much, for most of her money had been spent for the mausoleum.

"There she rests now, beside the road." <sup>13</sup>

On August 19, 1938, the first Old Home Day celebration was sponsored and developed. Dr. F. S. Heimer was at that time the Pres. of the Unadilla Rotary Club. Senator Joseph K. Hanley and the Hon. Abram L. Kellogg were the speakers. The celebration extended from Sunday afternoon through Monday. The Hon. Senator of the 44th District spoke at a Sunday evening service in the school auditorium. The Hon. Charles C. Flaesch extended a welcome to the old-timers and the Hon. A. L. Kellogg of Oneonta, who was born in Treadwell and had always lived in this immediate section with many friends in the village, extended a response. A tea was held in the Community House under the auspices of the Woman's Club on Sunday afternoon from 3 to 5 under the direction of Mrs. Glenn S. Whitaker. At 8:30 on the following Monday there was a sports program for boys with generous prizes; a soft-ball game at 8:30 and at 11:00 the parade headed by the Treadwell Fife and Drum Corps, American Legion, Sons of Legion, Auxiliary, Unadilla-Franklin Band, Firemen, Rotary Club and fraternal organizations, Boy Scouts, and school chil-

dren. The second section of the parade headed by the Sidney Band included floats, horseback riders, bicycle riders, automobiles and baby carriages. Prizes were offered for the most attractive floats, and in the afternoon following the addresses, a drill program was given by the Treadwell Fife and Drum Corps, and a baseball game between Unadilla and Otego was held. Mr. and Mrs. William H. Davy participated in the parade riding in a car driven by F. Guy Constable. They were recorded as Unadilla's oldest couple celebrating their 62nd anniversary on New Year's Day. Mrs. Davy was born February 15, 1851 and her husband in 1852. On the evening of the close of festivities, as Old Home Day went over the top, a dance was held in the school auditorium. At midnight everyone joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne." It was one of the finest civic events in the history of Unadilla.<sup>14</sup>

Meanwhile, Scouting continued active, as evidenced by the fact that they celebrated another series of anniversaries, one at St. Matthew's Church in 1935. Rev. Yale Lyon, the Scoutmaster, was assisted by Rev. Harold C. Buckingham. On Monday evening at the Methodist Church the Scouts assembled for their banquet. Cecil Stearns gave a speech on "Scouting and Salesmanship." (Mr. Stearns was a charter member of the troop). The Hanor Cup was awarded to Glen Whitaker, and Eagle badges, the highest award in Scouting, were awarded to Donald Carvin and David Chappell.<sup>15</sup>

Rev. Yale Lyon was honored as a 30 year veteran in Scouting. The special dinner in honor of these veterans was held in Oklahoma City in 1940, and Mr. Lyon was unable to attend, but he did receive the souvenir booklet in which are given a list of 86 30-year veterans in Scouting including the name of Rev. Yale Lyon of Unadilla.<sup>16</sup>

Three boys from Unadilla attended the national Scout Jamboree in Washington in 1936 from June 30 to July 9. They were Walter Hunt Jr., Phillip Jackson, and John F. Van Cott.<sup>17</sup>

May 15-21, 1938, was National Air Mail Week and Unadilla had a special airmail envelope commemorating the Village Beautiful. It was designed by Glenn C. Harris, the principal of the school, showing a copy of the seal with an Indian and a colonist standing with a symbol of the rivers coming together.<sup>18</sup>



The Historical Association recorded the meanings of the Indian words used as place names within the counties. Otsego is from an Indian word meaning "the place of the rock" and probably takes its name from the Council Rock just at the head of Otsego Lake. Saratoga comes from a Mohawk word meaning "floating scum upon the water." Chenango is from the Onondaga word meaning "large bullthistle." Schoharie is from the Mohawk word meaning "floating driftwood." Tioga is from an Indian word meaning "at the forks" originally applied to a famous Indian meeting place. Cattaraugus is from the Seneca word meaning "bad smelling banks" referring to the odor of natural gas leaking from rock seams.<sup>19</sup>

Several counties were of course named for the men who were famous in the history of New York: Broome for Lieut. Gov. John Broome and Yates for Gov. Joseph C. Yates. There are 20 counties of the state named for early heroes and statesmen and an equal number are derived from Indian names.<sup>20</sup>

In this connection, it is probably wise to refer again to Halsey's record as quoted by Rev. Lyon in an article for the Tri-County motor news. "The meaning of the name UNADILLA as given by Morgan, our best authority is PLACE OF MEETING which refers to the junction of two streams. The word has been spelled in many ways. As in the Fort Stanwix deed we find Tianaderha, so Gedeon Hawley in 1753 wrote Teyonadelough. Richard Smith cites the form Tunaderrah. Other forms are Cheonadilha and Deunadilla while Unendilla and Unideally are common. Joseph Brant in a letter to Perserfer Carr wrote Tunadilla.

All these forms resulted from the white man's efforts to put into writing the word as he heard it pronounced by various Indian tribes. The form Unadilla comes nearest to the Oneida dialect, which has the charm of greater softness than the others. Stones is at a loss to understand why the pioneers were not content to accept as final the spelling adopted by an educated Indian like Brant. The present spelling was adopted, however when the town was formed. In the Poor Master's Book of 1793 the word is written as we write it now "Halsey," *Pioneers of Unadilla*.<sup>21</sup>

At the time when James Fenimore Cooper's anniversary

was held on Otsego Lake in 1940, dramatized by a huge pageant, H. W. Thompson of the *New York Times Magazine* wrote of the legends and ghosts of Cooper's land and closed his article with the following prayer, attributed to Mary Brant of the Mohawks, which was also obtained from Rev. Yale Lyon:

"Now I know the voice of man can reach unto the heavens.  
Now I know that the Mighty One hath heard me when I  
prayed,  
Now I know that the Word of Old, the Great Spirit, truly  
heard it,  
Now I know that Our Father hearkeneth unto man's prayer.  
I know that good, and good alone, hath come, my children,  
unto you." <sup>22</sup>

Mary Brant, a sister of Joseph, was the "prudent, faithful housekeeper" of Sir William Johnson and mother of eight of his Indian children.<sup>23</sup>

Lest anyone forget the depression years of this decade, this letter that a Dad wrote his daughter was also recorded in the Yale Lyon scrapbook.

"My Dear Daughter:

"You ask me if your husband should stay on in his present position at an 'adjusted' salary, but you forgot to tell me what he should do if he didn't. You and he couldn't very well come here just now. Your brother, Sheridan's, salary has just been 'reconsidered,' so he moved into his old room at home and brought his wife.

"Your sister, Eloise, telephoned the next day that Wilfred has just been offered a new contract that was an insult, so your Mother is airing out her room. Wilfred never could endure insults. Your sister Frances, you may recall, has been a private secretary and wrote last week that if any body thinks she is going to drop to the level of a common typist, they are mistaken, so we expect her any day now.

"What with these and the younger children I imagine that as long as Rupert's salary is merely being 'adjusted,' he had better stay. Adjustment is nothing like a reduction. It's hard for me to keep up with the new language of big business, but as I

understand it, an 'adjustment' is the equivalent of a raise. Of course, Rupert wouldn't know that, he has been working only since 1928. He should ask some old-timer to explain what a raise is.

"My own business is coming along fine. It was sold on the courthouse steps last Friday, but there were no bidders, so the sheriff let me keep it. That makes the best month I've had since the upturn.

Your affectionate Father." <sup>24</sup>

Hartwick College organized in 1938. Nearby Oneonta announced a group of honorary Board of Trustees including a very distinguished list of residents of nearby counties and including a representative from Unadilla, Arnold W. Sherman.<sup>25</sup>

Freedom Lodge, 324 F. & A.M. had a meeting at which it entertained as its guests members of the lodge who had held membership for 40 years or more. There were 12 men who had attained this distinguished honor, and the total membership in years of these men added up to 558 total years. The senior member was W.'. Brother Tracy H. Morse who held the Grand Lodge medal of fifty years with a ten year palm, and had been a member for sixty-three years in 1940. Seven of the brethren were present at the meeting, and the photograph reveals: W.'. Brother E. C. Brockway 44 years; R.'. W.'. Robert Homan 40 years; Brother George Huftalen 40 years; W.'. Brother Tracy H. Morse 63 years; Brother George K. Storie of Walton 44 years; Brother Robert Somerville of Sidney 51 years; Brother Fred D. Seaman 48 years. Three hundred and thirty years of service is represented by these seven men. "Freedom Lodge feels very just pride in this splendid record of men, most of whom are still very active in the Masonic fraternity. The other members who were unable to be present at the meeting are: R.'. W.'. Charles C. Flaesch 42 years; Brother LeRoy Harris 48 years; Brother Morris N. Sines 43 years; Brother William D. Hanford 40 years; and Brother Joseph F. Finch of California 35 years." <sup>26</sup>

The first concert given by the Unadilla Community Orches-



tra is noted in the Unadilla High School auditorium on January 24, 1934. Ward S. Jones was the director, assisted by Ethel Graves Case, soprano, and Mrs. Laura Lewis, accompanist. A local committee had been active to foster the best of music and to be an avenue for the training and expression of the musicians of Unadilla.<sup>27</sup> In this connection it is interesting to note that throughout the years there has been a wealth of talent as evidenced by a program of the Oratorio of Esther, the Beautiful Queen, given at Otsego Hall in Unadilla on February 5th and 6th, 1874: "Nineteen solo presentations Chorus of 50 Voices: Dramatically Rendered in Full Median and Persian Costume." The directors were Messrs. Peasley and Sizer, and Mr. Daniel Sizer was also cast as Ahasuherus, King of Media and Persia. Esther, the Queen—Miss Ada F. Lines; Mordecai the Jew—Mr. C. N. Spencer; High Priest—Mr. Albert Young; Priestess—Miss Eliza Hanford; Hegai—Mr. M. B. Gregory; Pages—Miss Mary Loomis and Miss Lizzie Dooley. Tickets were on sale at Halsey and Boorn's Drug Store and the doors opened at 6 1-2 P.M.<sup>28</sup>

The Unadilla Woman's Club celebrated an interesting anniversary in 1937, and Mrs. Frank S. Davy wrote of it the *Unadilla Times* as follows:

"Miss Anna Mulford, a past president, was in charge of the program, which was opened by Mrs. Fred J. Joyce who gave an interesting history of the founding of the club in 1900 with its 38 charter members.

"The first president was Mrs. A. B. Morse, now of New Haven, Conn., who sent a most interesting letter in which she told how at her request Francis W. Halsey, then editor of the 'New York Times,' came and addressed the club, Unadilla being the boyhood home of Mr. Halsey.

"The next president was Mrs. Edward Maplesden (1901) and is one of the five past presidents now deceased. In her memory a candle was lighted. Mrs. Clark Hanford, the third president (1902) is also deceased, and was given the recognition of a lighted candle. Mrs. Milo C. Gregory, the next president (1903) gave a short talk on her year's work, followed by Mrs. B. M. Pecor's vivid description of the club's social events and study classes. Miss Edna Maplesden was next (1904)

and in 1905 Mrs. R. O. King, now of Yuba, Calif. was president. Mrs. Albert Fluckiger read a most welcome letter from Mrs. King. In 1906 Miss Anna Mulford served as president and she gave a résumé of her work. Following was Mrs. S. L. Mulford of New York, who finished the uncompleted year of Mrs. Roger Spencer (1907). Mrs. Mulford was unable to be present on account of illness.

"Mrs. Fred J. Joyce followed with three years as president (1908-1910). Mrs. R. K. Teller, now of Bridgeport, Conn. also served as president for three years (1911-12-13) an interesting letter was read from her. In 1914 Mrs. A. J. Butler, now deceased, was president and she also was honored by a lighted candle.

"The president for 1915 was Mr. Jerome S. Seacord and a tribute was given to her memory by Mrs. Charles Oles, and for her a lighted candle was placed among the others, whose memory the club was honoring.

"For the next two years (1916-17) Mrs. Charles C. Flaesch was president. She was followed by Mrs. Charles Oles (1918) who reported to have a membership then of about 25. Mrs. Carlton Pomeroy was next (1919) and she gave an outline of her year as president. Mrs. R. O. Lewis of San Diego Calif. followed with two years as president (1920-21) and a telegram of greeting to the club was read from her. 1922-23-24 were presided over by Mrs. Monte S. Cone who on account of illness was unable to be present. Mrs. Willis Topliff gave an account of Mrs. Cone's three years' work.

"A letter from Mrs. George Turner of Cooperstown was read; she following in 1925. Next was Mrs. William Young of West Point who sent a letter which was read and much enjoyed by the club members. (1926.)

"Mrs. A. T. Kirby of Sidney was president and gave an account of her year as president in 1927; she was followed by Mrs. Lee H. Rider in 1928. In 1929 Mrs. Ella Slater, now deceased, served the club as president; she was given a lighted candle and a tribute was paid to her for the work she gave through the years of service as secretary. Mrs. Belle T. Loomis followed in 1930 as president, Mrs. W. J. Topliff in 1931, Mrs. M. S. Cone again in 1932, and Miss Anna Mulford in

1933-34-35. Mrs. Glenn Whitaker in 1936, and our present president Mrs. Harold York 1937.<sup>29</sup>

"Subsequent presidents: 1938 Mrs. Harold York; 1939 Mrs. Fred J. Joyce; 1940 and 1941 Mrs. F. Burrows Esty; 1942 and 1943 Miss Helen Rowe; 1944 Mrs. W. Earl Winger; 1945 Mrs. John Wilson; 1946 and 1947 Mrs. A. J. Teed; 1948 Miss Helen Rowe; 1949 Mrs. Frederick R. Meeker; 1950-51-52 Mrs. Robert Atkinson; 1953 Mrs. Raymond Struble; 1954 Mrs. Oliver Haire; 1955 Mrs. George S. James; 1956 Mrs. Gorden Berger."<sup>30</sup>

The first hobby show was held in Unadilla about 1937, sponsored by the Federated Missionary Society. It was held at the Central School, and many antiques of various kinds took up a large part of the space. Old documents, letters, books dating back into the 1700's, old wedding dresses, book plates, bead bags, and early American glass made up much of the exhibit. The hobby horse of Lewis Cone, who died about 1897 at the age of 94, was a prominent and fascinating exhibit. His father was a doctor to the Indians in this section and his well preserved saddle bags were hung across this miniature horse. Arrowheads, pottery and other Indian curios were shown by John Van Cott, Carlton Pomeroy Jr. and Stephen Winsor, Jr. Most of the articles had been found in and around Unadilla, proving once more the richness of the past in our valley. Stamps, coins, air-mail covers, historical papers, ship models, and hand colored photography, various items of needlework made a very interesting display.<sup>31</sup> It is interesting to note that the hobby show has been continued and has become a community project sponsored by the community service organizations.

With the centralization of the Unadilla School, Rogers Hollow Fair enlarged its territory and competition was set up in all the grades. The 15th Annual Fair was held September 27, 1935. Galen DeForest continued as President; J. Stanley Earl Vice-President; E. G. Rathbun, Secretary-Treasurer; Directors: George Gilbert and Will Birdsall. The fair is now sponsored by the Board of Education.<sup>32</sup>

Flower Shows, sponsored by the Village Improvement Society, continued. The stage of the High School auditorium



was attractively decorated with garden furniture, a fence, and a sun-dial manufactured and loaned by the Unadilla Silo Company for the show which was held August 17, 1937. There were guests present from nearby villages and also from quite distant points. Rev. E. E. Hutchinson of Morris gave an interesting talk and also served as one of the judges, along with Mrs. Francis McMenamin, of Oneonta and W. C. King of Franklin.<sup>33</sup>

Death claimed an unusually large number of old-time residents and prominent citizens during this decade. James W. Carpenter, who died July 13, 1937 had lived in Unadilla for twenty-five years.<sup>34</sup>

Frank E. Butler, who was the son of Captain Francis and Abigail (Burdick) Butler was born in Otego on October 27, 1866. His ancestors came to this section from Westford, Conn. by ox team and located at Unadilla Center in 1828. He was married to Miss Myrtle Denny and they had two children. One son, Clarence who died at 17 years previous and a daughter, Miss Adah Butler, now Mrs. Willard Howe.

William E. Jordan, one of the last two surviving members of the Unadilla band, died in about 1931. He was born in Unadilla on July 28, 1851, and had been a member of the Unadilla Baptist Church since 1879. He had served as deacon of the church for 35 years.<sup>35</sup>

Mrs. Clara Thompson White, the widow of J. Frank White, died about 1932. Mrs. White was the daughter of Foster and Sarah (Dewey) Thompson and was born April 7, 1858 at East Sidney.<sup>36</sup>

William G. Hotaling, the last surviving charter member of the C. C. Siver Post G.A.R. died at the age of 91 in 1932. He was the son of James and Julia Ann (Guest) Hotaling. He was born June 16, 1841 in New Baltimore in Greene County. He had learned the carpenter trade and there are many buildings in Unadilla and vicinity that were erected by Mr. Hotaling. He was survived by one brother and his daughter, Mrs. Ella H. Joyce. Unadilla lost in his death one of its most congenial and loyal citizens.<sup>37</sup>

Mrs. Margaret Malden died at the age of 86 in the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. R. Williams, in 1932. She came to

America from Scotland, settled first in Delhi, but later came to Unadilla (1890).<sup>38</sup>

The Hon. Leland W. Cowles was born April 4, 1852, in Smithville, Chenango County. He graduated from the Oxford Academy and taught school for fifteen years. In 1883 he came to this village, where he studied law in the office of E. C. Belknap. He was admitted to the Bar in 1887 and entered into partnership with Mr. Belknap. After a brief period of practice in Cortland he served in the Assembly from 1898 to 1899. He was appointed surrogate judge of Otsego County in 1916. He was one of the oldest practicing attorneys in this section of the state and had been a resident of Unadilla for over 50 years at the time of his death.<sup>39</sup>

Mrs. Austin Miller, 91, of East Guilford, died in 1932. She was born Sarah Woodhill Armes, December 21, 1841, on the Armes farm near Rockdale. She married Austin Miller on October 22, 1863, and moved to the Miller homestead one mile south, where she lived for 70 years. For 77 years she had been a member of the Presbyterian Church at East Guilford, the land for which was given by her family. She was survived by two sons, Fred F. and John H., fifteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.<sup>40</sup> A subsequent chapter of "Reminiscences" will give the very interesting account of the family as written by Frederick Miller, one of the sons here mentioned.

Neil Stearns (1933), the son of Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin W. Stearns, was killed in a traffic accident <sup>41</sup> and in the same decade, his father, Dr. Benjamin W. Stearns, was killed when struck by a train at Ithaca. Dr. Stearns came with his family to Unadilla in May, 1908, and had established a wide practice for 27 years.<sup>42</sup> Albert Fluckiger, who accompanied Dr. Stearns, was also so severely injured in the accident that he never regained consciousness and died in a hospital at Ithaca.<sup>43</sup> Mr. Fluckiger was associated with Albert LeRoy, then the manager of the Mohawk Hotel. Mr. LeRoy had induced Mr. Fluckiger to establish a meat business in New York City and this famous resort was supplied by the Fluckiger brothers along with the other large summer hotels in the Catskills. In 1895 the businessmen in Unadilla presented to Albert LeRoy

the site of the old Ontio. Mr. Fluckiger and his brother, Lewis, spent three days a week in Unadilla, supervising the construction of this summer resort. It is said that Mr. Fluckiger was so impressed with Unadilla and its inhabitants that early in 1896 he sold his interest in the meat concern to his brother and purchased the Unadilla House from Mrs. Minnie Tingley, taking possession on May 1, 1896. (This old landmark of Unadilla was opened in 1804.) Mr. Fluckiger continued as proprietor until April, 1927, when it was sold to Louis Van Gorder.

Frederick Arthur Halsey, a brother of the historian and a noted engineer, died on October 25, 1935. Frederick Halsey was born in Unadilla on July 12, 1856. He graduated from Cornell in 1878. He was an inventor of rock-drilling machinery and the author of numerous engineering textbooks. He married on May 12, 1885, Stelia D. Spencer.<sup>44</sup>

Mrs. Mary E. Seacord, one of Unadilla's most prominent citizens, was another whose death is recorded. She was a teacher at the Unadilla Academy and High School and married Jerome S. Seacord on October 6, 1904. She had been active in St. Matthew's Church, Woman's Club, Garden Club, Village Improvement Society. Her passing brought a sense of personal loss to many residents of the village.<sup>45</sup>

Mrs. Belle Sands North, the widow of the late Samuel Shaw North, born in Oxford on April 22, 1853 and came to Unadilla when she was three years old. She married Samuel S. North on January 22, 1882. As a resident of Unadilla for over 80 years, she had been a devoted member of St. Matthew's Church and active in the support of community endeavors, along with her husband. She was survived by her daughter, Mrs. Yale Lyon. Her death occurred on November 30, 1936.<sup>46</sup>

William P. Mulford died about 1937. He was born in Sidney, November 21, 1867. Came to Unadilla when he was one year of age and became a cigar packer in the W. Mulford Cigar Co., for many years. He was married August 29, 1890 to Cora Heath. Mrs. Charlotte Hull a daughter survived him as well as two sisters and one brother.<sup>47</sup>

Mention should also be made of the death of Eugene Bell Southworth, a direct descendant of Constant Southworth of



Colonial fame. He died at the age of 84 in his home in Trout Creek in 1938.<sup>48</sup> He was born May 19, 1855 in Seward, New York. He married Nellie Scott on October 11, 1877 and she died January 30, 1937. He had been a resident of Southworth Villa 47 years and was the genial host at this famous boarding house. He was a wonderful gardener and was survived by two sons and seven daughters.

We should also record the death of James Hughston one of Unadilla's oldest citizens. He died May 3, 1940 at 95 years of age. He had celebrated that birthday on April 18, 1940. Born April 18, 1845 in the old stone house on the Ouleout, he had spent his boyhood in this village, attending Unadilla Academy and being employed locally for several years. It is recorded that "when the first railroad train pulled into Unadilla Mr. Hughston was on hand to see the small wood-burning locomotive pull into the wooden depot."

At the age of 23 he went West and worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for 33 years. He returned to Unadilla in 1928 and was particularly interested in the old trees of the village, especially a pair of elms, now among the largest, in front of the property owned by Miss Anna Eells on Mill Street. These elms Mr. Hughston helped plant in his boyhood. He was survived by a daughter, Mrs. Frederick H. Meeker (A. Kathleen Hughston) and one son James W. Hughston, and a grandson Hughston McBain, President of Marshall Fields Department Stores, Chicago, Ill. These same elms became infected with Dutch Elm Disease and had to be destroyed in 1953.<sup>49</sup>

Basil Pecor was too a long time citizen of Unadilla. He was born November 16, 1872 at Whitehall, New York and lived in Unadilla 44 years. He was a successful business man in the village conducting a grocery store, in fact two grocery stores, the Village Grocery and the Downtown Grocery. He was a vestryman to the St. Matthew's Church for twenty-five years and treasurer of the church for five years. He was a director of the Unadilla National Bank, being elected in April 1932. During the 44 years in which he had been a resident of Unadilla, he had helped in every way to promote all worth-

while projects for the betterment of the community. His death occurred in 1937.<sup>50</sup>

Mrs. Monte Cone, who was Bertha McKay was born in DeRuyter, May 9, 1878. She came to Unadilla as a small child and this village had been her home ever since. The greater part of her life had been spent at the Cone homestead about two miles above Unadilla in fact 40 years previously she had married Monte Cone. She was very active in all organizations of the village, including Woman's Club, Garden Club, Village Improvement Society, Red Cross, Rebekah's, St. Matthew's Church. She had been active and held high positions in all of these organizations. Her death occurred in 1938.<sup>51</sup>

William Wickham had resided in Wells Bridge on the farm now owned by J. J. Youmans having moved there fifty years previous to his death notice, in February 1891. By this union one child was born (Mrs. Charles Morey) of Unadilla. Mr. Wickman's death occurred in 1940.<sup>52</sup>

Mrs. Tracy Morse passed away following a three-year illness in 1940. Lillian Dewey was born January 12 1857 at East Sidney the daughter of Ralph S. and Julia Ann (Earl) Dewey, both of pioneer families. She attended Delaware Literary Institute at Franklin and taught school at East Sidney before she married Tracy H. Morse February 15, 1876. She spent most of her married life at Unadilla. She was a charter member of O.E.S. Freedom Chapter, and had been active in various other organizations. Her husband, two daughters, and two sons survived her.<sup>53</sup>

Charles Bishop widely known as the proprietor of the Bishop Hotel, was born June 1, 1873 in what is now the Joseph Williams house on Maple Avenue. He was the son of Charles Bishop Sr. and Mary Cummings Bishop. He had conducted the hotel which his father had purchased when it was known as the Kingsley house for thirty-five years and his death occurred in 1933.<sup>54</sup>

Mrs. Tacy Raitt, the wife of George D. Raitt, died at her son's home Richard Raitt, in Cincinatti, Ohio in 1936. After the death of Mr. Raitt, she had very successfully carried on the publishing of the *Unadilla Times* until that paper was sold to Lynn Earl. She was survived by three sons.<sup>55</sup>

Speaking of the *Unadilla Times* brings to mind the files which have been of inestimable value in the research of this committee. Through the courtesy of Lynn Earl, owner and publisher we have had the use of these records. Framed in the office of the *Unadilla Times* are various early issues of the *Unadilla Times* and its predecessors. We list particularly the issue of:

*Susquehanna News* Volume 1, No. 38, Unadilla, New York, Wednesday, May 19, 1841 "\$2.00 per annum in advance \$2.50 at end of year." Some of the ads were as follows:

Watson and Sands, Brick Store  
 Horace Greeley's "New Yorker Magazine" 7th annual volume  
 Charles Foote, Clover Seed  
 C. F. Robinson—new tailoring establishment opposite Bolts Tavern, Unadilla Village.  
 Bennett & Woodruff—Latest Fashions  
 George Hanford—Boot and shoe store.  
 Susquehanna House (now Hotel Bishop) Erastus Kingsley purchased the elegant Brick building lately occupied by Mr. Arnold B. Watson and converted it into a public house"  
 . . . "situated in a central and pleasant part of the village."  
 August 5, 1840.

Articles of interest included:

"List of letters remaining in Post office at Unadilla, April 1, 1841—

Akerly, Rensler	Crane, Noah
Avres, B. H.	Coffin, R. M.
Arnold, Ira H.	Clark, John
Brown, James	DeForest, Lyman
Bayley, James	Flint, William
Butterfield, Henry	Ferry, Abner
Bardsley, Milton	Fowler, Hiram
Billings, Cornelia	Foote, William
Crooker, E.	Fletcher, Joseph
Carley, Ira	Griswell & Cone
Chapin, William	Harrington, Benjamin C.
Crancel, Daniel	Johnston, Laura
Cornell, Stephen (free)	Kinch, Nathan
Curtis, Z.	Luther, Elisha
Curtis, Elanson	Merihew, William
Cooper, Nathaniel	Martin, Reuben



## THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

Noble & Emory  
 Newton, Morse W.  
 Olmstead, Wilbur  
 Olmstead, S. W.  
 Page, S.  
 Richards, Nathan  
 Robertson Ariel  
 Smith, Jaene Mrs.  
 Slate, Clesson

Smith, James  
 Thorp, Jason  
 Wilbur, William  
 Witney, James  
 Wakeman, James  
 Persons calling for the above  
 will please say advertised.  
 Isaac Hayes, Postmaster"

There was a Unadilla Forum at that time, and they consisted partly of: R. M. Gallap, E. P. Carr, W. B. Haws, C. C. Noble, G. H. Noble, J. Youmans, W. E. Webster, S. Westover, President, E. S. Colke, Secretary, W. B. Haws.

There also was a Unadilla Mutual Insurance Company, with Isaac Hayes as president, Gilbert Cone as Vice President, George Noble, Treasurer and Charles Noble as Secretary. Directors were Ahiel D. Williams, Levi B. Woodruff, A. B. Watson, Christopher D. Fellows, Sherman Page, James Smith, Benjamin Ayres, David Finch and Joel Bragg.

Professional men who advertised in the "Susquehanna News" included Dr. Gaius L. Halsey, physician and surgeon, E. S. Colke, Attorney at law, and C. C. Noble, Attorney at law.

Stage arrangements were announced in its pages: "The Post Coach for Cooperstown and thence to Albany by way of Fort Plain and Cherry Valley leaves the stage house of Mr. Graves in Unadilla on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:00 P.M. and at Albany by either route the next day in the afternoon. Passengers by this route sleep at Cooperstown, thereby escaping the fatigue of night riding, returning leaves Cooperstown Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings at 9 A.M. For Catskill by way of Delhi leaves Unadilla on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 10:00 T. S. Graves, August 5, 1840."

"One Cent Reward—eloped from the subscriber on Friday the 23 inst., and indented servant, by the name of Laban Crandall. Any persons are forbid harboring or trusting said Crandall in any way, on my account, as I shall pay no debts of his contracting after this date. The above reward will be given to

any person who will return him to me, but no charges paid. Ebenezer Foote, Unadilla, April 26, 1841." The *Unadilla Weekly Herald*, Vol 1 No. 38 Wednesday, December 3, 1845.

"The *Herald* is published every Wednesday morning at Unadilla, Gilbertsville, Otego and Oneonta by William S Hawley. Terms—village subscribers \$2.00—office and mail \$1.50."

Ads included:

Griswold & Cone, dry goods

Beach's Grocery—opposite Kingsley's hotel (where now stands Shell Gas Station)

Watson & Hayes—store

L. L. Woodruff—tailoring

S. S. Fancher—boot and shoe shop

H. E. Benedict—tailoring, Mechanic's Hall near Kingsley's hotel

William Hanford—boots and shoes

Mrs. Palmer—millinery

Miss A. Spencer—millinery

*Unadilla Times*—A. J. Barlow, Editor & Proprietor, Thursday, August 8, 1878. Vol. X, No. 13, \$1 per year

Ads included:

Wilmot & Heath, furniture and undertaking

Halsey's Drug Store

L. H. DeForest Clothing Store

Gold, Silver, Greenbacks all taken in exchange for goods at the store of C. D. Fellows and Son (Cash only) Dry Goods.

M. Newman's Corner Drug Store—Burgin's Block corner Main and Clifton

Fuller's Millinery Store

Dibble's Jewelry Store

H. J. Launt, Furnishings and Undertaker

L. I. Woodruff, Merchant Tailor

Unadilla House, W. M. Mattice, Prop.

C. M. Thompson, Civil Engineer and Surveyor

Unadilla Machine Works—R. K. Teller

Arms & Arms, attorneys at law (Clifford S. and Taylor L.)

Bailey & Robinson, Clothing

"For Cash—dry goods at Watkins Bros. A. H. Watkins and L. S. Watkins

C. W. Mallery & Co. Dry Goods—Wells Bridge

Ireland & Kennedy—Masonic Hall block—dentists

Burgin's Groceries

Sisson & Wattles—dry goods

A. J. Owens, groceries, next to Unadilla house

"Unadilla Academy—The fall term commences August 26, 1878. Special advantages offered in ancient and modern languages. Members of the teachers class given free instruction in any of the classes of the school. Instruction thorough in every particular. For circulars and further information, apply to the Principal, James C. Griffin, Unadilla, New York."

The Susquehanna Valley Agricultural Society held its 22nd annual fair at Unadilla, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 17, 18 and 19, 1878. Officers from Unadilla were: President David Wait, Secretary George B. Fellows, Treasurer Samuel S. North, Vice-President Sylvester Smith, Director Milo Hutchinson, Superintendent of Miscellaneous Affairs A. P. Gray, Superintendent of Ladies Department in Tent, H. J. Launt, Assistant Superintendents were the Misses Raitt, Superintendent of Fruits and Vegetables Simeon Spencer, Superintendent of Cattle Erastus Hawks. The Judges, from Unadilla were: Clark I. Hayes, Sylvester Smith, George Chaffin, Samuel Chaffin, William G. Lobdell, A. N. Benedict, Horace G. Phelps, Herman D. Sherwood, Henry I. Foster, Erastus Hawks, Henry Hawks, S. E. Webb, F. M. Sisson, A. P. Gray, D. B. Morehouse, James White, William Gregory, D. P. Spencer, D. P. Chapman, Mrs. George B. Fellows, Mrs. James White, Mrs. J. D. Curtis, Mrs. T. G. North, Mrs. F. B. Arnold, Mrs. L. S. Collins, Mrs. Albert Youmans, Miss Frank Heath, Mrs. A. J. Barlow, Mrs. C. C. W. Mallory, Mrs. T. L. Arms, Miss Julia Packard, Mrs. L. M. Purington, Miss Mary C. Luther, Mrs. John Van Cott, Mrs. S. E. Webb, Miss M. Louisa Ellis, Mrs. Milo B. Gregory, Mrs. C. I. Hayes, Mrs. L. L. Woodruff, Mrs. Henry Talcott, Mrs. Sylvester Arms.

"Proposals will be received by the undersigned up to the 24th inst. for the building of a free bridge across the Susquehanna at or near the Unadilla Centre Bridge Company's bridge. Unadilla, August 7, 1878.

C. D. FELLOWS

F. A. SANDS

D. R. BASSELL, Committee"



**Traveler's Guide—A. & S.R.R.**  
**(Albany & Susquehanna Rail Road)**

**UNADILLA**

**Bound East****Bound West**

Express—10:10 A.M.

Express—12:34 P.M.

Express—4:53 P.M.

Express—7:38 P.M.

Local Passenger—9:41 P.M.

Local Passenger—8:25 A.M.

Local Passenger—7:40 A.M.

Local Passenger—12:34 P.M.

"The stone walks being laid on corner of Mill and Water Streets by R. K. Teller. L. W. Fisher and Mr. Sewell are a decided improvement."

"D. D. Brewster & Sons are now manufacturing two sizes of Buckwheat Refiners; the large size will refine buckwheat for two run of stone."

"It is rumored that Dr. N. B. Gregory had purchased the Island Farm of his brother H. C. Gregory in this village. He will probably make this place his residence. The Dr. and Milo are expected to sail for U.S.A. on the 10th inst."

The *Continental Gazette and American Advertiser* of July 18, 1878, published in Paris, had this to say:

"The Anglo-American colony in Paris were very agreeably surprised last week by a visit from their old and very much esteemed friend, Dr. Gregory of Lyons, and M. B. Gregory of Unadilla, New York. They had come up to see the Exhibition and spent a few days in the capital. Of course, invitations flowed in from all sides, to breakfast, dinner, soiree, and supper, while it nearly became a scramble, directly the news spread that he was here, to see what should make him the most welcome. For so many years a resident of this city where his professional skill gained for him an immense reputation as a dental surgeon, Dr. N. B. Gregory was known also for his kind, genial manner to everyone, his unstinted generosity and benevolence wherever a helping hand was really needed, and it may be said of him, that he was in fact an American Charitable Institution where his countrymen were certain of relief on giving satisfactory proof of their actual distress." (The foregoing quotes from old newspapers are from framed papers in the *Unadilla Times* office.

Lynn Earl also has in his possession another very rare issue of a paper. It is Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Catskill Packet* Monday, August 6, 1792, M. Croswell & Co., Catskill Landing, price 10 shillings per annum. Because of the association of Unadilla with the Catskill Turnpike, this is of particular interest in this community and shows the development of this river town at this early date.

We should also record in this chapter the celebration that was held at Norris on Saturday, October 24, 1940. This was a Sesquicentennial Pageant, prepared, written and directed by Charles Pascal Franchot, the great-grandson of Stanislaus Pascal Franchot, who with his father and three brothers came to the village of Lewisville, now Morris, in Butternuts valley, Otsego County, in 1790. Stanislaus Pascal Franchot died in Morris, August 30, 1855. This is another indication of the early settlement of this section of Otsego County.<sup>56</sup>

Thus we come to the end of another decade. It is rather difficult to choose the items of historical nature, particularly as we come closer to the present period. As we look back on events in history, they take their rightful perspective, but as we view them close at hand, it becomes increasingly difficult to discern their true significance. Undoubtedly in the chapters that have preceded this, we have failed to mention some significant events, and may have given space to some of minor importance. Who can predict the birth of some youngster in a modest home in Unadilla, who may, in the future, become one of the distinguished citizens of the community, state, and nation? All we can do is view in retrospect the events of the past, and try to depict those of major importance.

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## FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 7

1. "Unadilla, Place of Meeting," by Miss Frances Freeman for the fifth grade.
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*
5. Yale Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 10, September, 1940 to January 1, 1942, p. 72.

6. C. C. Flaesch, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 2, p. 37.
7. Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 9, p. 280.
8. *Ibid.*
9. *Ibid.*
10. *Ibid.*, p. 61.
11. Frederick Meeker, *Scrapbook*, Vol. A, p. 54.
12. Lyon, Vol. 9, p. 300.
13. Lyon, Vol. 8, May 15, 1931 to January, 1936, p. 44.
14. *Ibid.*, Vol. 9, p. 239.
15. *Ibid.*, Vol. 8, p. 234.
16. *Ibid.*, Vol. 9, p. 501.
17. *Ibid.*, p. 110.
18. *Ibid.*, p. 215.
19. *Ibid.*, p. 55.
20. *Ibid.*
21. *Ibid.*, p. 117.
22. *Ibid.*, Vol. 10, p. 36.
23. *Chapter in the History of Delaware County, New York*, by John J. Monroe, published by the Delaware County Historical Association, 1949, p. 79.
24. Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 8, p. 124.
25. *Ibid.*, p. 19.
26. *Ibid.*, Vol. 10, p. 57.
27. *Ibid.*, Vol. 8, p. 175.
28. *Ibid.*, Vol. 9, 2nd page from back.
29. *Ibid.*, p. 174.
30. Printed list of presidents from Mrs. W. J. Topliff (revised).
31. Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 9, p. 142.
32. *Ibid.*, Vol. 8, p. 295.
33. *Ibid.*, p. 16.
34. *Ibid.*, p. 10.
35. *Ibid.*, p. 81.
36. *Ibid.*, p. 105.
37. *Ibid.*, p. 110.
38. *Ibid.*, p. 115.
39. *Ibid.*, p. 127.
40. *Ibid.*, p. 149.
41. *Ibid.*, p. 181.
42. *Ibid.*, p. 254.
43. *Ibid.*, p. 256.
44. *Ibid.*, p. 298.
45. *Ibid.*, Vol. 9, p. 69.
46. *Ibid.*, p. 76.
47. *Ibid.*, p. 132.
48. *Ibid.*, p. 231.
49. *Ibid.*, p. 465.
50. *Ibid.*, p. 296.
51. *Ibid.*, p. 303.
52. *Ibid.*, p. 339.
53. *Ibid.*, p. 506.
54. *Ibid.*, Vol. 8, p. 190.
55. *Ibid.*, p. 210.
56. *Ibid.*, Vol. 10, p. 39.



## CHAPTER 8

### The Churches

MANY ITEMS have been given, in this book of the St. Matthew's Church. This is natural because it is the oldest denomination here, because many of the records which were available to our committee had more factual information concerning this denomination. Mrs. F. H. Meeker has been working on a delightful historical record of the events leading up to the organization of St. Matthew's. She has also found some interesting data on Father Nash. We of the committee had thought her work might be included in our book. However, the length of the story makes it impossible for it to be printed here. We are deeply appreciative to her for her wonderful cooperation in the whole matter and will be awaiting the publication of her intriguing story. We feel it desirable to record the briefer histories of other churches.

#### HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Through the courtesy of Marvin Teed, a great deal of information is made available concerning the history of the Presbyterian Church. An old record book of October 23, 1822 states that a number of the inhabitants of Unadilla: "Being desirous of forming themselves into a society met for that purpose." Stephen Benton was called to chair. Calvin Gates, Holly Seely were elected trustees: "Then proceeded to give the name to the society and made choice of the name 'Harmony Society of Unadilla.' It is apparent that there was a need for a Harmony Society in our village for apparently all of the people were not in accord with the denomination which has already been established by the St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. There is an interesting story which has been brought to light by Mrs. F. H. Meeker. The vote in determining what sort of a demonination should be established in Unadilla, had resulted in a tie vote between Episcopal vs.

Presbyterian and broken only by the chairman, Sherman Page who threw his support to the Episcopal denomination. Many of the early settlers from Unadilla were of Scotch ancestry from New England and it is not at all strange that the Presbyterian Society was one which was organized next in our village. They desired to live in Christian love and fellowship with other churches, while forming ecclesiastical relations most agreeable to themselves." Hence the name, "Harmony."

On March 16, 1824 the record says: "Proceeded to take the sense of the people whether Presbyterian preaching was desired," and when this was decided in the affirmative Rev. Isaac Flagler was unanimously chosen as pastor.

There is also available a book dated April 23, 1823 which has in it the Confession of Faith and Covenant according to the Presbyterian polity and these were adopted and subscribed to by the following persons, viz: eleven in number:

Uriah Hanford	Sarah Munfore
Rhoda Hanford	John Eells
Jesse R. Hovey	Sophia Bottom
Mary Hovey	Daniel Castle
Holly Seely	Philo L. Phelps
Garret Munfore	

Two clergymen Rev. Edward Andrews and the Rev. Abel Colwell were present to assist in the organization which occurred at the residence of Holly Seely in 1823. In the Church Chronicle publication on October 30, 1874 appears the fact that this house was moved from its old site, below the residence of John Van Cott (which we now know as the Van Sherman property on lower Main Street) to Martin Brook Street near the Rail Road. This presumably was the house which was occupied by Holly Seely and where the people met for organizing the Harmony Society.

Another interesting comment concerning chairman Sherman Page, which we quote again from the Church Chronicle.

## THAT LAND

"A package of old papers in possession of our clerk, E. C. Belknap, is labeled 'Papers relating to the Church Lot in Michigan.' It appears that while the building of the church was in progress the heart of Sherman Page was moved to liberality, and a Quit-claim Deed of eighty acres of land in Wayne county, Michigan, was placed in the hands of the trustees. The estimated value of the Lot was two hundred dollars. Visions of an increase in value and a future sale at high figures made the payment of taxes comparatively easy. When this became too monotonous, a fruitless attempt was made to dispose of the property. Finally, as a result of special effort, an important discovery was made. 'Forsail' would have been an appropriate advertisement, for the land was under water; it formed the bottom of an immense swamp! 'Sold for taxes.'"

Special mention was made of John Eells who came to Unadilla from Walton as a young man. Someone said: "John Eells when quite a young man removed from Walton to this place. He was an earnest Christian worker. It is perhaps just to say, in the words of a citizen who knew him well, that 'for a long time he was the head and front of the Presbyterian church.' He was no doubt one of the most active at the time of its formation. But long before such an organization was possible, he was at work. On Sabbath morning he was accustomed to go to Rogers' Hollow, where he talked and prayed with the people and collected the children for a Sunday School—then in the afternoon he would return to the district where Mr. Todd now lives, for a similar service. One of the original eleven, he was intimately acquainted with all the history of the church until recently. His faith and hope were strong even in the darkest hours of trial. Four years ago (1870), he went home to glory, to enter upon his Master's better service, not for another half century, but for all eternity." There appears to be no doubt that he was one of the most active at the time of this formation. Several descendants of John Eells are presently active members in the local society. Mrs. E. H. Rider, Miss Anna Eells, Mrs. Lynn Earl and daughter Hannah.

The church society had planned to build a building as a House of Worship. A location somewhere between the St.



## THE CHURCHES

Matthew's Church and Dr. Cone's residence was thought desirable and the trustees were authorized: "to purchase the lot formerly known as the Livingston." It is described as a "part of lot No. 94, Wallace's Patent nearly opposite Mrs. Edson's house." However it did not seem possible to raise the necessary funds and it was not until 1840 that the Society came into possession of its present site.

"In 1841 a change of name was deemed advisable. Harmony was dropped, and the present corporate name First Presbyterian Society of Unadilla, adopted."

There is another paragraph which is of interest: "Names may change, but the thing signified always remains the same. It is hoped that harmony will never be dropped. It is a golden cord binding together even opposite elements. Without it no Society should attempt an existence. With it are secured unity and strength."<sup>1</sup>

The list of ministers which has been prepared by A. J. Teed from 1880 is as follows:

Albert C. Bishop	1880-1887
C. E. Fay	1888-1896
E. S. Chichester	1896-1899
D. G. Lawson	1899-1901
Robert Hastings Nichols	1901-1902
Joseph Hackney Colclough	1903-1905
Frank Putman	called 1905—died before pastorate began
Frank E. Hoyt	1906-1908
I. H. Polhemus	1908-1912
F. W. Townsend	1912-1913—temporary pastor
F. W. Townsend	1913-1914
John Rankin	1915-1919
Royal L. Neufeld	1919-1921
J. Graydon Brown	1922-1925
Gordon McKinzie	1925-1927—stated supply
1927 Federated with Baptist Church	
Rev. George K. Hamilton	1927-1929—Baptist
Rev. John T. Lyon	1929-1938—Presbyterian
Rev. Stanley Todd	1938-1941—Baptist
Archie Benedict	1941-1948—Baptist
Rev. Thomas B. Walker	1948-1951—Presbyterian
Federation ended.	
Rev. Clifton E. Webb	1953 —Presbyterian

In 1927 there was a Federation with the Baptist Church. At that time it seemed advisable to make a union, but unfortunately over a period of years it has not seemed to work out to the best interest of both denominations. Hymn books, United States and Christian flags, and a cross were presented in memory of Cora C. and Frank M. Tyson, Mrs. Tyson having been active in the plan of Federation. In 1951 the Federation was dissolved and each denomination resumed its own interests and their respective churches, which had been retained and used alternately.

Thus for a long period of years the Presbyterian church has exerted its influence in our community for the benefit of its members and friends. It has a long record of good and faithful service and looks forward to the remainder of the century with high hopes for a continued long and useful existence.

### THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptists have an old society and much of the following was compiled for the 75th anniversary number of the *Unadilla Times*, to which reference has been made before. Among the early settlers of Unadilla and vicinity were a number of Baptist families, and there were occasional visits to the community by Baptist clergymen who held services at the homes of the communicants and later at the schoolhouse. Among the itinerant preachers were Silas Spaulding, William T. Boynton, Lewis Raymond, D. B. Crane, N. Wattles and others, but no effort is recorded to establish a church and society until 1843, when Rev. Lewis Raymond of Cooperstown was invited to hold protracted meetings in the schoolhouse and there were a number of converts. At a meeting held Sept. 16, 1843, a Baptist conference was organized and the following persons accepted as candidates for baptism: Maria C. Brown, Maria Church, Lydia Ann Olmstead, Abigail Bidwell, Wealthy Ann Porter, Maryette Wright, Sarah Ann Steadman, Sherman Page, George R. Porter, George Crandall, Elizabeth Porter, Minerva W. Ostrander, Miranda Clapp, and Harriet Bunnell. These candidates were baptized on September 24 by Rev. Mr. Raymond. On Oct. 1 following the same clergyman baptized Jasper Ostrander, John Ostrander, Lawrence Ostrander, and

Julia Hogeboom, and on Oct. 11 five others. An old record says a final baptismal service was held on the banks of the river, as quite likely were the others.

On the same date Oct. 11, 1843 a council was held for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. Delegates were present from Gilbertsville, Sand Hill, Otego, Oneonta, Sidney Plains, Franklin, and Masonville. The sermon was by Rev. John Smith, Rev. H. Robertson offered prayer, Rev. F. O. Judd delivered the charge to the Church, the hand of fellowship to the new church was given by Rev. L. Raymond and the closing prayer by Rev. N. Sherwood. The first covenant meeting was held the same day and the ordinance of the Lord's Supper observed on October 15. There were several more baptisms the same year and Sherman Page was elected clerk of the church.

The church joined the Franklin Baptist association at a session held in Oneonta in June 1844. The membership of the church was then given as 60, most of whom had been received by baptism. For five years the church continued public worship in the schoolhouse, while funds were being obtained and plans perfected for building a church, which was dedicated Feb. 27, 1847 with a debt of only \$150. The church building was repaired and improved from time to time, the last marked change being the remodeling of the kitchen and dining room and the substitution of chairs for pews in the audience room.

The first pastor called to the church was Rev. J. H. Dwyer and among others who followed have been Rev. J. P. Cook, John LaGrange, Sylvanus Smith, D. S. Jackson, E. Baldwin, Henry Robertson, N. Wright, I. F. Wilber, Frank Fletcher, D. F. Leach, John Smith, S. Smith, Elder Reynolds, D. Van Frandenburgh, L. M. Purrington, G. E. Flint, J. W. Baskwell, W. G. Fennell, Frank Heath, C. C. Pierce, Frank Gallup, B. Eldredge, A. B. MacLauren, J. M. Crandall, F. D. Belden, M. Y. Webster, George L. Casler, Frank Hare, W. E. Mountenay, A. E. Holmes, G. F. Woodbury, E. L. Wills, Rev. G. Webster Moore and others.

During the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Van Frandenburgh a series of meetings was held in Rogers Hollow which resulted in the organization of "a branch of the Unadilla Baptist Church" and



regular services held each Sunday for several years, but this branch was merged eventually with the Friends denomination, which so well ministers to the spiritual life of the Rogers Hollow neighborhood.

The Baptist Sunday School was organized by Mrs. Van Frandenburgh who served as the first Superintendent, and she was followed by William Wendell, A. J. Barlow, W. E. Norden, James Andrews, E. W. Parsons, Alpheus Bolt, Howard Bundy, M. D. York, D. Y. Drew, C. O. Potter, and Frand S. Davy, and others.

More recently there was the Federation with the Presbyterian churches recorded in their history, and now as a sepearate Baptist denomination again the church is being served by the Rev. Homer B. Weatherbee. The chronological record of pastors since 1900 is as follows as prepared by Mr. Frank S. Davy, long a faithful member of that church.

Pastors who have served the Baptist Church in Unadilla  
since 1888

Rev. Burroughs Eldredge	1888-1890
Rev. A. B. MacLauren	1890-1891
Rev. J. M. Crandall	1892-1894
Rev. F. O. Belden	1894-1898
Rev. George L. Casler	1898-1901
Rev. Frank Hare	1901-1903
Rev. W. E. Mounteney	1903-1906
Rev. A. E. Holmes	1906-1910
Rev. George Woodbury	1910-1912
Rev. E. L. Willis	1912-1916
Rev. G. Webster Moore	1916-1919
Rev. E. J. Griswold	1920-1922
Rev. Girard Case	1922-1926
Rev. Blackmere (Supply)	1926-1927
Rev. George K. Hamilton	1927-1929
Baptist-Presbyterian Federation	
Rev. John T. Lyon	1929-1938
Rev. Stanley Todd	1930-1941
Archie Benedict	1942-1947
Rev. Thomas B. Walker	1949-1951
Rev. Homer B. Wetherbee	1952-

Recently (1956) the Baptist Society have purchased the property next to the church, remodeled it for a parsonage, and have made many improvements on their property.

### THE METHODIST CHURCH

"1854 seems to have been an unimportant year in the history of the United States, but only eternity will reveal the results of a few earnest Christian men meeting together in a little town in Central New York and organizing the Unadilla Methodist Church."<sup>2</sup> This is the beginning of a History of that group written by Mrs. Carl Vinton in preparation for the Centennial celebration to be held in 1954. "Francis Halsey in the Pioneers of Unadilla says 'a Methodist Church building was erected in Unadilla by a society destined to exert marked influence and today existing in a fine state of vigor and enthusiasm and usefulness.'" If such a statement were true 50 years ago it represents an accurate picture today.

A history of the Wyoming Conference, of which Unadilla is a part on the Oneonta District, gives some further light on the beginning of Methodism in the Village Beautiful.<sup>3</sup> The beginnings are veiled in obscurity. It was a part of the Otsego Circuit. Another source<sup>4</sup> speaks of the Tioga-Unadilla circuit as being "one of eleven in the Albany district back in 1802 when the Methodist Episcopal Church was divided into Conferences." Undoubtedly this refers to the Unadilla Valley, for we recall that the early settlers made their homes along the rivers and waterways as these were then the only logical method of transportation. The writer is convinced that Bishop Francis Asbury visited this area and may have stopped in Unadilla and further research will be made to establish the time and date from the voluminous records which this pioneer Bishop who spent most of his life in the saddle, kept in great detail.

Again referring to "Chaffees History" on April 26, 1832 Moses B. Maxwell, leased to various named persons called the Unadilla Central Society, about 76 rods of land. The annual rental of this piece was to be one peppercorn. It is thus apparent that a class existed at that time and that a church building was contemplated but apparently nothing came of it for the record

of that transaction ends there. It has also been reported that meetings were held in the Judge Paige house on Main St., which later became the G. W. Hardy residence, and has since passed through various ownership and is now the Unadilla Diner. In the early days the house was used as a store, the street running between the elm trees and the house. Here slab benches had been available for public meetings and the Church services may have been held here.

The actual date of incorporation Dec. 6, 1854 marked a new beginning at least and the early trustees were W. H. Emory, David Bullock, Samuel Cleveland, David Lee, Solon P. Hubbell, with Samuel Cleveland presiding at the meeting. The trustees thus named were incorporated as "The Trustees of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Unadilla." <sup>5</sup> The site for the church was deeded by Christopher D. Fellows and his wife Caroline for \$350 on Dec. 29, 1856 and the church was begun at once. It was completed and dedicated by Bishop Janes Jan. 27, 1857. The total cost of the original building was \$2700.

Various remodeling programs have taken place as the church adapted itself to new and growing situations. In 1885 after a program of alteration amounting to nearly \$6000 the church was rededicated. The bell which had been purchased in 1881 (Nov. 10th was the date given by *Unadilla Times* in a paper owned by Herbert Jorden) at a cost of \$500 had been installed and a new pipe organ built by the Beman Organ Co. was installed at a cost of \$600 in 1900. In 1928 an extensive program of rebuilding was done, the large two story addition housing new kitchen, dining room facilities, Sunday School rooms etc., was added, the interior redecorated, new pews to take the place of the old theatre type wooden seats, new lighting fixtures etc., was completed at a cost of \$11,500. Rev. L. D. Armlin was the pastor in charge at the time and he personally remodeled the front entrance and installed the stairs in a direct approach to the auditorium. About the same time the organ was rebuilt and electrified, making it one of the most modern and complete in the village. This was a gift in memory of John W. and Margelia Van Cott and presented by Frank J. and



Ellen B. Van Cott. In 1901 a bronze tablet was installed in memory of Hiram Hubbell and presented by his sons. Hiram and Solon Hubbell were brothers and both were enthusiastic supporters of the Church in its early history. Later other memorials have been added, the illuminated cross in memory of Emma Peet Brooks, and baptismal font and altar rail in memory of Jennie L. Munger, the acousticon in honor of E. H. Burlison, and others, all expressing the love of friends and relatives for the outstanding work of these people who had labored faithfully and well in the vineyard.

The parsonage next to the church property was purchased in 1867 and this too has been remodeled at several different dates as needs have arisen, the last time being a modern kitchen finished in 1952.

Elder Sperry, as he was called, or Lyman Sperry as you may know him was one of the pastors of the church. He retired in Unadilla, built the house now known as the Community House and is buried in St. Matthew's Cemetery. Cabinet workers were then employed at 10¢ an hour in the construction of the house and some of these same men were employed in the building of the covered bridge just off the Franklin road. Elder Sperry was a respected citizen of the community and his influence was long felt in his pastorate here. His wife was a daughter of Neil Robertson, "an early Methodist."

Several interesting people have come from the parsonage homes of the Methodist Church. To mention only a few of them, Dr. Henry Van Deusen previously referred to, who became the first Secretary of the Judicial Council of the Methodist Church and was influential in the Union of the Methodists in 1939 at Kansas City, Dr. Roland Crompton, who became a leading educator with presidencies of Pennington School in New Jersey, later Tilton School in New Hampshire. Rev. A. George Whitman, the son of the Rev. S. Lee Whitman, who became the pastor of a large church in the Ohio Conference, also his brother Lee S., a District Superintendent, and others that might equally be mentioned in their fields of service.

## THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

The chronological list of pastors is as follows:

1851	with Otego
1852	A. R. Wells
1853	H. Halstead
	L. E. Marvin
1854-1859	L. Sperry
1860-1861	L. Bowdish
1862	W. G. Queal
1863-1864	L. V. Ismond
1865-1867	T. P. Halstead
1868	James N. Platt
1869-1870	G. M. Peck
1871-1872	W. A. Wadsworth
1873	W. L. Thorpe
1874	S. C. Fulton
1875-1876	E. C. Herdman (the last half of the conference year was filled by C. D. Mead)
1877-1879	J. W. Mevis
1880-1881	J. N. Lee
1882-1884	J. Ryder
1885-1887	C. H. Hayes
1888-1890	H. N. Van Deusen
1891-1893	B. P. Ripley
1894-1895	H. A. Williams
1896-1897	H. B. Benedict
1898-1900	J. S. Crompton
1901-1906	E. R. D. Briggs
1907-1909	S. Lee Whiteman
1910-1911	Edgar Kilpatrick
1912-1916	W. M. Bouton
1917-1921	Wilber C. Dodge
1921-1922	B. W. Dix
1922-1925	W. E. Elwood
1926-1927	E. A. Gillespie
1928-1929	L. D. Armlin
1929-1930	Frank James
1930-1934	Harold C. Buckingham
1935-1938	T. Ashton Rich
1939-1943	George E. Youngs
1944-1947	Clayton W. Hoag
1948-1951	William H. Heapps
1952-1957	Frederick W. Reinfurt
1957	E. Lee Brehm

The Unadilla Church has been particularly honored in General Conference delegates. John W. Van Cott was a delegate

to the Conference in Baltimore 1908. Walter L. Hunt was elected a delegate to the Conference in Columbus, Ohio, in 1936 and has attended as a delegate from the laymen of the Wyoming Conference each of the conferences since that date, including the Uniting Conference at Kansas City in 1939. He has been president of the Laymen's Association of the Wyoming Conference for more than 20 years. General Conferences attended include, Columbus, Ohio (1936), Atlantic City (1940), Kansas City (1944), Boston (1948), San Francisco (1952), and Minneapolis (1956). He has been a delegate to each of the Jurisdictional Conferences and chairman of the program committee for the last two quadrenniums and is now a member of the Board of Publication of The Methodist Church. This is an unusual experience for a layman from a rural community.

A well organized Sunday School has always played an important part in the history of the Methodist Church. Mrs. F. J. Van Cott was Supt. about 1909. Mrs. George Munger served most efficiently for 20 years, Mrs. Carl Vinton for 11 years and June Seely, Paul DuBois, and Kenneth Edson for shorter terms. Two classes deserve special mention, the Gleaners Class and the Live Wire Class for women. Both have been organized for over 25 years. Most outstanding is the fact that one teacher Mrs. Wm. S. Brown has taught the Live Wire Class for all these years. Miss Eileen Topliff has now taken over the class, although Mrs. Brown is still regular in attendance. In 1956 we must record that Mrs. Brown is living with her daughter Mrs. George Youngs in Binghamton and that Mrs. S. E. Hunt is now the teacher of the Live Wire Class.

Quite appropriately the following quotation was used by Mrs. Vinton to conclude her historical work. "Lo, from generation to generation, the Spiritual church is rising upwards towards its perfection and though one after another the workmen pass away, the fabric remains and the great Master Builder carries on the undertaking. Be it ours to build our portion in a solid and substantial manner, so that they who come after us may be at once thankful for our thoroughness, and inspired by our example."

Mention should also be made that the Unadilla Center



Church mentioned in previous chapters is now a part of the Unadilla Charge and served by the Pastor at Unadilla. This has meant much to both groups and a fine spirit of harmony and fellowship prevails in the union.

### ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Within the period of the last fifty years St. Ambrose Catholic Church has grown and developed in Unadilla. For many years there were a few faithful families that have been nucleus of the church and it was in 1922 that the present church building was dedicated. Possibly some of the early Jesuit priests, passing through the valley visiting the Indians were in Unadilla long before any Protestant clergyman began his preaching mission.

For several years prior to the formation of the church here in Unadilla, priests from Oneonta came at regular intervals and the services were held in private homes and in the Red Men's Hall. Father J. S. McCarthy 1905-1912 of Oneonta was succeeded by Father Daniel McCarthy in 1912 when both Sidney and Unadilla were made a mission from the Walton parish. Next came Father Thomas Burns 1915. Father Dougher became a resident priest at Sidney in 1921 after arriving two years from Walton parish and it was during his priesthood that the church at Unadilla St. Ambrose was built and dedicated on December 10, 1922.

The building itself was a stone house that was remodeled with a tower surmounted by a cross. Stained glass windows, donated by friends and communicants, an arched doorway and tasteful decorations on the interior have made it attractive in appearance and adequate in size till the present time. Recently through the growth in Unadilla many more Catholic families have come into the area and the number of cars parked in front of the church at the regular hours of mass would indicate that larger quarters might be required. It is still a part of the Sidney parish and the priest from Sidney serves this village with regular services.

Father Dougher was succeeded by Father William P. Casey 1923 who "strengthened the new church by labor and devotion" <sup>6</sup> and he in turn was succeeded by Father Joseph Madigan

## THE CHURCHES

in 1928 who came from a parish in Albany to serve both the Sacred Heart Church in Sidney and the St. Ambrose in Unadilla. It was said of him that "he has quickened the spiritual life of his people and won the sincere regard of those outside his faith by his strength of character and deep understanding of human kind." Father Madigan served for several years and the parish at Sidney expanded a great deal under his administration. He was followed by the following priests:

Father R. J. Doran 1936

Fr. Francis King (served only a short time due to ill health)

Father John A. Kavanaugh—Sept. 1937-March 1950

Father John E. McNamara—present pastor Mar. 1950

Father Andrew Lenahan, assistant—since Sept. 1951

Thus the small group of faithful members of this church in Unadilla have seen a fine growth and progress during the half century just passed.

During the past year (1953) a home in Sidney has been purchased to be used as a convent and recently four nuns have come and will have charge of the religious instruction of the children of both parishes.

## FRIENDS CHURCH

Another group that has had a vast influence not only in our community, but through the nation as well is the Society of Friends. No one can overestimate the influence that this quiet group has exerted, particularly in early Pennsylvania. Mention has already been made in the history of the Baptist Church that there was a small society of that faith in Rogers Hollow but that it was merged with the Friends Society. The cross roads at the Hollow marks the location of the Friends Church, a white painted building of modest and simple proportions. Across the corner is the Community House which was given to the church and marks the place where they hold suppers and social gatherings. In the fall when they serve their annual fall supper, the place is crowded with many from Unadilla, Sidney, and other nearby points; for the ladies of the Friends Society have established an enviable reputation for their cooking, their hand-made articles for their fair and bazaar, and no one wants to miss this annual event. This was originally

one of the older houses of the area, it marks the spot where the first DeForest cabin was located as previously mentioned in other chapters. It has since been remodeled and this work was all done by volunteer labor and materials, making an adequate community center building with kitchen and entertainment facilities. In 1918 a parsonage farm was purchased just below the Community House, so that the pastor lives close by the meeting house.

It is said that many years ago the Friends held their meetings in the lower school house at Rogers Hollow. Thomas and Rachael Sprague, Friends ministers, had a great deal to do with developing the parish, since he was the first Friends minister in the Hollow. A preparation meeting was established under the direction of the Butternuts monthly meeting at Morris on September 23, 1896. Butternuts Quarterly meeting was held in Rogers Hollow the first time in 1897 and the first Unadilla monthly meeting was established there January 27, 1904. There are only two members living who were the original charter members of the local society: Anna Quimby and Eva Fiske. It is our understanding that the local group is a part of the Five Year Society of Friends with headquarters in Philadelphia.

One of the pastors of this church that has had a marked influence on the area, was Rev. Henry Vore, whose death occurred in 1952. He was the pastor for twenty years and was active not only in Rogers Hollow, but also in the community as well. He was for many years a member of the Board of Education during those troublesome years when centralization was being undertaken, new school buildings erected, district schools closing, etc., and his sound judgment and high moral integrity were felt in all these deliberations. He was later succeeded on the Board of Education by Galen DeForest and the Hollow was well represented by these men. Rev. and Mrs. Vore contributed to the development of the Church. The Community was saddened when they returned to the West from whence they had come, and soon Rev. Vore passed to his reward.

Another pioneer of the Friends Church was Mahlon D. York. His influence in the community and in the organization of the church will long be felt.



## THE CHURCHES

The chronological list of pastors who have served this parish is as follows, and this information has been compiled by Galen DeForest, long active in the Community and a descendant of one of the early families, also recorded in other chapters.

Thomas C. Sprague	Herbert Wood
Louis C. Draper	M. D. York
Frank H. Clark	Alfred E. Standing
W. E. Mountenay	William I. Kent
Charles Trear	Henry M. Vore
Eugene L. Willis	Kent R. Larrabee
Aaron Downs	Lewis Scott
J. William Peckham	Miss Marian Frenyear
G. W. Moore	

So in their quiet unassuming manner, so characteristic of the fine folk of the Quaker faith, they have made a distinct contribution to the community.

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## FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 8

1. *The Church Chronicle*, published October 30, 1874. "Devoted to the interest of the Presbyterian Church in Unadilla, N.Y. Volume 1, Number 1."
2. "History of the Unadilla Methodist Church," a paper prepared by Mrs. Carl for their centennial in 1954.
3. *History of the Wyoming Conference*, Chaffee. Published by Eaton and Mains, 1904.
4. *He Holds the Stars in His Hands*, by Leroy E. Bugbee, The Centennial History of the Wyoming Conference, 1952.
5. Original record book from custodian of records, W. L. Hunt.
6. *Unadilla Times*, 75th anniversary number with article on St. Ambrose.

## CHAPTER 9

### 1940-1950

**H**ISTORY may record that the decade from 1940-1950 was the most significant in the 20th Century. Certain it is that there was hardly a place on the face of earth that was not affected by World War II. Literally, it was world wide. One author in 1945 following the defeat of Japan speaks of the revolution in Asia:

"In Asia there are over a billion people who are tired of the world as it is. They live literally in such terrible bondage that they have nothing to lose but their chains . . . In India a human being has an average life expectancy of 27 years. In China half the people die before they reach the age of 30. Everywhere in Asia life is infused with a few terrible certainties—hunger, indignity and violence.

"Less than 100 years ago, Europe lived this way. Then Europe revolted against the old system in a series of bloody wars that lifted it, generation by generation to what we regard as civilization. The people of Asia are now going through the same process." <sup>1</sup>

Whether this author was right or not remains to be seen. But it certainly is a fact that here in Unadilla everyone was plunged into the war effort. Some daughters, husbands, fathers, brothers—all were scattered over the far flung battle lines in Africa, Europe, Greenland, Iceland, Asia, Australia, and the islands of the Pacific. Those at home were summoned to war effort in nearby defense plants, regulated and controlled by rationing of tires, gasoline, food supplies, shoes, blackouts, price controls, and each made his contribution in the effort to bring victory and peace. Lasting peace has not yet come, and at this writing, Unadilla boys today are stationed in Korea and in Japan.

Many families may recall a similar experience on that Sunday December 7, 1941.

We at our home had finished our Sunday dinner: Mother

and Grandmother were doing the dishes; the children were playing in the living room; Grandfather was taking his Sunday nap; I was reading. The radio unnoticed played a scheduled program, when, out of the blue, at about 3 P.M., there was an interruption of the music with the announcement that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. There was a sudden hush. The dishwashing stopped; the children dropped their books; Grandfather roused; the realization came to us all of the serious consequences that would come to us, individually, our family, our community and our nation. The rest and quiet of the Sunday were gone. The security of our home and of our village as well as our country was in danger. None of us could predict or foresee the effect upon our lives and loved ones. Thus it was in many a home.

Unadilla had men at Pearl Harbor on that fateful day, and men in the Philippines the next day, when the airports at Manila were bombed. Before the end of the world conflict, men from Unadilla were in every theatre of operations. At least nine of our young men made the supreme sacrifice, and their names are here recorded on the roll of honor:

#### UNADILLA'S ROLL OF HONOR—WORLD WAR II

GORDON CLARKE  
ALFRED CORIGAN  
HAROLD FORSHIE  
DONALD GROSS  
RICHARD PRENTICE

BUD RUDNITSKY  
DONALD SILVERNELL  
ARCHIE VAIL  
KENNETH WRIGHT

In any attempt to record accurately the names of those serving from Unadilla and vicinity, the records of the American Legion and the Veterans Service Committee have been carefully checked. Even in these few years, it becomes difficult to record correctly the entire list. However to the best of our ability, the following is the alphabetical list:

#### ALPHABETICAL LIST OF SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN OF UNADILLA IN WORLD WAR II

Eleanor Ashe  
Robert B. Baker  
Lloyd Baldwin  
Gerald Banks  
Clifton E. Barnes  
Harry Barnes

William J. Barrett  
Mark Battin  
Charles Beach  
Kenneth Beach  
Mahlon Beach  
Raymond Beach

Willis Beach  
Reginald Beebe  
Lawrence Belden  
Richard A. Belden  
Frank Bell  
George Bell



# THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

Charles Benedict  
 Lauren Benedict  
 Edward G. Berg  
 Frederick Berger  
 William Berger  
 Charles Birdsall  
 Donald Birdsall  
 Homer Birdsall  
 Howard Birdsall  
 John Birdsall  
 Reed Birdsall  
 Ben Brooks  
 Arthur B. Brown  
 Charles Brucken  
 James Bundy  
 Leon Bundy  
 Milton Burton  
 Donald Butler  
 Bion Call  
 Robert Carlson  
 John Carmichael  
 Malcolm Carr  
 Millard Carr  
 Lee Carrington  
 Robert Casper  
 K. M. Castle  
 Roger Chamberlin  
 Arwin Chappell  
 Robert Chappell  
 Robert A. Chappell  
 Laverne Charles  
 Milton S. Clapper  
 Gerald Clarke  
 Gordon Clarke\*  
 L. Robert Clarke  
 Alvin L. Coddington  
 Harold Coddington  
 Harry R. Cole  
 George Collins  
 Kenneth S. Colton  
 Monte F. Cone  
 Norman Constable  
 Claude Cook  
 Delmar Cooke  
 Alfred Corigan\*  
 Frank Cranston  
 Clifford Cronk  
 John W. Cross  
 Edward Crowley  
 Kenneth Cummings  
 Earl J. Cuyle  
 Clarence Darlin  
 Lawrence Darlin  
 Burton Davies  
 Luther DeForest  
 John Delsole

Frederick DeMott  
 William DeShaw  
 Ziba Dixon  
 Charles Dixson  
 Robert G. Dominger  
 Ward C. DuMond  
 Carl Dykeman  
 LaVerne Spencer Earl  
 Ward W. Edmunds  
 Percy Edwards  
 Henry F. Elhert  
 Charles Emerson  
 Floyd Favreau  
 Frederick Feltz  
 Robert Fisk  
 Charles Flaesch, III  
 Cornelius J. Flaesch  
 Donald Flemming  
 Goldie M. Foree  
 Roy Foree  
 Harold Forshie\*  
 Thomas French  
 Mabel Frey  
 Jacob Froelick  
 Anna M. Fuller  
 Phillip Furman  
 Morgan Gage  
 Harold Georgia  
 Seward Gilbert  
 James Gill  
 Martin Gill  
 Robert Gill  
 Robert K. Glover  
 Ralph Goodrich  
 Robert Gorham  
 H. Gary Grant, Jr.  
 Alfred Grass  
 Arthur Grass  
 Emmett Grass  
 Kenneth Grass  
 Morris Grass  
 Donald Gross\*  
 Oleta Gross  
 Stanford Gross  
 Albert Gurney  
 Julia Gurney  
 Kenneth Gurney  
 Robert Hanford  
 James Hanft  
 H. W. Harrington  
 John R. Harris  
 Robert Harris  
 Stanley Hatton  
 Donald Hawver  
 Russell B. Hayes  
 George Head

John W. Henry  
 Harvey L. Herring  
 John L. Herrmann  
 Carl Hinkleman  
 William Hoag  
 Everett Holl  
 E. D. Hollenbeck  
 Frederick Holly  
 Irene Houck Bacon  
 Raymond Howe  
 Arthur Hoyt  
 George Huftalen  
 George Hughes  
 Donald Hull  
 John Hull  
 Floyd Humphrey  
 Norman Humphrey  
 Elizabeth Hungerford  
 Walter L. Hunt, Jr.  
 Dr. Rudolph F. Hust  
 Carrie N. Ingalls  
 Charles A. Jackson  
 E. Anneke Jackson  
 Guerdon Jackson  
 Orle Jackson  
 Phillip Jackson  
 Raymond Jacobs  
 George D. James, Jr.  
 Lloyd J. Johnson  
 John Jones  
 Lillian Jones  
 Louis Jones  
 Stephen Jones  
 Charles Jordan  
 Carl Kehr  
 Ira Kerschner  
 Robert Kinch, Jr.  
 Alfred King  
 James Kinsey  
 John Kinsey  
 Russell Kline  
 Stanley Kline  
 Howard E. Knapp  
 Esther Knoetgen  
 Walter Koelliker  
 Lucius Lacy  
 Livingston Latham  
 Marie LePine  
 Victor Lockwood  
 Kenneth Lord  
 Gilbert Lowden  
 LeRoy Magnussen  
 Harold O. Makley  
 Harold Marcellus  
 Leland Marcellus  
 Thomas H. Marden

\* Star indicates killed in action.

# 1940-1950

Howard Marr  
 Tony Marzulla  
 Raymond Meehan  
 Frederick R. Meeker  
 Robert F. Meeker  
 Laurence Merrill  
 Mert Metzger  
 Ernest Miller  
 Joseph Milliken  
 Robert A. Miner  
 Anothony Mongillo  
 Harold Morrison  
 Charles O. Mowers  
 John J. McArthur  
 Stanley McCumber  
 Wayne McCumber  
 Robert McElligot  
 Bert McIntosh  
 Douglas McKnown  
 Robert McKnown  
 William C. McLauray  
 Alfred L. Nelson  
 Charles E. Northup  
 Dorothy O'Connor  
 Harold Odone  
 Howard H. Oles  
 Bernard O'Rourke  
 William L. Orton  
 Howard Osborne  
 Charles Ostrander  
 Gordon Packard  
 Horace Palmer  
 John Palmer  
 Carmen Pangaro  
 George Peck  
 Orlie T. Peck  
 Samuel Peck  
 Stewart Peck  
 William McKay Pell  
 Anothony Pesce  
 Frank Pesce  
 Lee Pierce  
 Virginia Poole  
 Richard Prentice\*

Bernard Prescott  
 John Rathbun  
 Asaph Ray  
 Roy Reynolds  
 John Robinson  
 Robert S. Robinson  
 Burrows Root  
 Bud Rudnitsky\*  
 Ralph Rudolph  
 Alfred D. Ruling  
 George C. Ruling  
 Glen Ruling  
 Leon H. Ruling  
 Nelson Ruling  
 Clarence Russell  
 Graydon Ryan  
 Charles F. Ryder  
 Francis Sause  
 Jean N. Schaeffer  
 John R. Schaeffer  
 Stewart Searles  
 Harold Sherman  
 Harold Shields  
 Clarence Silvernell  
 Donald Silvernell\*  
 Benjamin Sisson  
 Jeanne Sisson  
 Marcus H. Sloan  
 Clifford E. Smith  
 Martin Smith  
 Robert Solon  
 Leon Squires  
 Ronald Stewart  
 Charles Stilson  
 Charles Strain  
 Gordon Strain  
 Ferrell F. Swingle  
 Lloyd Templeton  
 Charles TerBush  
 Frank TerBush  
 Bruce Thomas  
 Irving E. Thompson  
 Myron Trumbull  
 Harold Tryon

Archie Vail\*  
 John F. Van Cott  
 Thurston Vandevort  
 Arthur VerValin, Sr.  
 Arthur VerValin, Jr.  
 Frank VerValin  
 Gerald VerValin  
 Kenneth VerValin  
 Morris VerValin  
 Roy Wagner  
 Robert Ward  
 Roland Warner  
 Charles Washburn  
 Harold Washburn  
 Ronald Washburn  
 John R. Waterman  
 Gordon Webster  
 Basil Weed  
 Carl J. Welch  
 Glen Whitaker, Jr.  
 D. Lincoln White  
 Frank P. White  
 J. Mason White  
 Zada White  
 Alfred E. Wilber  
 Bryon Wilber  
 Leland J. Wilber  
 Lester Wilber  
 Wesley Wilber  
 Harold Wilbur  
 Clyde Wilkins  
 Robert Wilkins  
 Kenneth Winsor  
 Stephen Winsor  
 Chauncey Wolcott  
 Newell Wood  
 Norval Wood  
 Kenneth Wright\*  
 Sheldon Young  
 Edwin Youngs  
 Franklin Youngs  
 Robert Youngs  
 TOTAL OF 317

These young men and women have a grand record of service. The world became smaller as we followed their progress in the various areas of war activities. Their record of sacrifice and devotion was marked with honor and distinction as medals and awards of merit were bestowed on many of them. They wore with pride ribbons for service in the far flung battlefields across both oceans. Finally they began to come home. A Veterans Service Committee was set up and did an excellent job in welcoming them back to Unadilla and helping them to

## THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

make the readjustment to civilian life. The Veterans Service Committee was composed of

J. Stanley Earl	Raymond Lord
Lynn P. Earl	Reniff Merriman
Ward Edmonds	Lee Murphy
Hon. Charles C. Flaesch	Carl Pomeroy
Dr. J. J. Friedman	Mrs. Cecil Schaeffer
H. Cary Grant	George Silvernell
Rev. Clayton Hoag	Harold Tyson
John M. Hopkins	Wayne Tyson
Walter L. Hunt	Earl Winger
Sylvester Lord, Sr.	Harold York

Committee Chairmen were as follows:

Executive Committee: Walter L. Hunt

Contact Committee: Lee Murphy

Employment Committee: Wayne Tyson

Educational Committee: Harold Tyson

Personal Problems Committee: Rev. Clayton Hoag

Through the Executive Committee of this Veterans Service group, employment was found, educational opportunities developed, personal relationships adjusted, and a great deal of good accomplished. Unadilla can take just pride in the contribution they made to the war effort both in its active participation by this splendid group of service men and women and in the fine contribution at home. Additional space will be given to the war effort on the home fronts later in this chapter of the decade, 1940-1950, but let us continue to some historical matters of interest. As yet no fitting war Memorial has been adopted, but it is to be hoped that this may soon be done.

In the possession of Lynn Earl, Editor of the *Unadilla Times* is a book titled *The Minutes of the Corporation from 1828, Village of Unadilla*. This book was found by Richard Belden in 1940 when the old brick bank building that stood on the northeast corner of Main and Depot was demolished and where was erected the gas station operated by Richard Belden now owned by Louis Wormouth. It is not possible to review all the acts and regulations found in that book; the first pages, however contain the act passed April 2, 1827, to "vest certain



powers in the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Village of Unadilla in the County of Otsego." Boundaries were established, duties of the trustees were given, and at the first meeting on the first Monday of May 1828 Isaac Hayes, Boswell Wright, Daniel Cone, Johnson Wright, and Henry Ogden were elected trustees with Curtis Noble as Treasurer and Neil Robertson as Collector. Isaac Hayes was subsequently elected President of the Board of Trustees.<sup>2</sup>

By-laws were adopted and appeared in this book, making it unlawful for the "owner or possessor of any horse, or horses, colts, cattle, swine, sheep or geese to suffer or permit them or any of them to run at large in any of the public streets or highways within the limits of the corporation." The fine for each offense was \$.50 and a further sum of \$1.00 for every twenty-four hours that the animals were still at large. There were also many other regulations which were amended from time to time and the penalties prescribed. It is a very interesting document, and contains the signatures of many of the prominent citizens who signed the by-laws and the oath of office, promising faithfully to support the Constitution and the laws of the state. Mention is made of the duty of each occupant "of every dwelling house in the village on or before the first day of July 1831, to provide and keep a good substantial ladder of sufficient length to reach on to the roof of every such dwelling house." It also provided for the establishment of a Board of Health, and the first health officer was Dr. John Colwell, July 5, 1832. The charter of the village was amended in 1840 providing for the election of a constable. The last revision of the by-laws appearing in this book was on May 20, 1844. At this time a \$2.00 fine was added for the provision making it unlawful to run any horse or horses within the limits of the corporation. One of the early provisions prohibited any person to put in front of a "lot or lots on Main Street and the street leading to the Free Bridge any boards, staves, shingles, logs, timber, or wood, nor shall any description of carriage or farming utensil be permitted to stand or remain in front of any lot in the streets aforesaid for a longer period than six hours at any one time." The fine for the violation of this order was \$.50 and \$1.00 for every twenty-four hours that the object remains.

The mention of the "free bridge" brings to mind the fact that we have discussed in previous chapters the upper bridge across the Susquehanna, but have made no mention of the lower bridge. "Early Bridge History Reveals That Women Were Allowed Free Passage in Olden Days" is the title of a very interesting article appearing in the *Unadilla Times* of February 26, 1943:

"Unadilla has long had two bridges across the Susquehanna. The upper bridge was built in 1817 and largely took the place of Wattles Ferry that had been in use since immediately after the Revolution. It was built by a stock company and although it was a toll bridge it brought trade extensively to the merchants in the upper end of the village.

"Meanwhile, Crookerville was becoming a thriving settlement and the businessmen of lower Main street wanted to get their share of the trade. They thought a free bridge was what they needed.

"On June 29, 1822 Stephen Benton gave to the Commissioner of Highways a quit claim deed to a strip of land one rod wide running 'from the turnpike near Foster's Tavern (now the Unadilla House) on the west side of Sherman Page's line south to the river.' The land was to be used for a public highway. On that same day Sherman Page gave a deed to one rod of his land. These two grants of land make the Bridge Street of today.

"Benjamin Saunders, W. D. Spencer and Eber Ferris were the Commissioners of Highways who laid out this road, at the request of Gilbert Cone, Albert Banton and John Bissell, trustees for building the free bridge. Stephen Benton kept a general store that was probably the first one opened in Unadilla. He was a merchant here before 1800. His store was on the site now occupied by J. C. Boynton and Son.

"The proposed free bridge was opened in 1823. Not many years passed before it became a toll bridge and continued as such until about 1870. The toll-gate keeper lived in the 'bridge house' as people then called it. In the illustrations is a picture of the bridge house that stood for many years on the Unadilla side of the lower bridge. It was so well built that it was used for a dwelling house for many years after it ceased to be used

as a home for the gatekeeper. (During the past few years—1949 or so—the old bridge house which stood on the west side of Bridge Street was sold by J. G. Martin and a small summer cottage was erected 50 feet below the bridge).

“In the 1850’s and 1860’s the gatekeeper was Fitch W. Crane—a man prominent in Masonry in those days. Toll was charged according to the weight of the load. A single ox cart was a sixpence, a yoke of oxen and cart was a shilling, a horse and carriage was also a shilling. A horse and rider was a three-pence. A man on foot was two cents, and a woman could cross the bridge free. It is said the thrifty dwellers of Crookerville usually had the wife do the marketing.

“About 1870 the town of Unadilla bought the lower bridge of the stock company who owned it and ever since we the public have been crossing it forgetful of the individual enterprise and foresight that first built it.”

In this connection, since we have recorded some of the officers serving the village of Unadilla in its first incorporation, mention should be made of the fact that the village was re-incorporated in 1889 and there follows a list of officers. Mention should be made at this time that John M. Hopkins served as the second mayor of the village and has held the office continuously from 1933 till 1953. A great deal of credit is due him for his untiring and unselfish devotion to the village of Unadilla, and for the remarkable contribution of service which he has given in this connection.

It was due to his efforts that we have the new fire house on Clifton Street on land donated to the village by the Unadilla Silo Company. The list of officers is as follows:

#### PRESIDENTS

D. O. Loomis	1889-1896	Cornie C. Moore	1914-1920
Eugene Carr	1896-1898	Fred E. Tabor	1920-1921
Tracy H. Morse	1898-1902	Dr. Samuel J. White	1921-1923
Eugene Carr	1902-1903	Fred E. Tabor	1923-1924
Dr. A. J. Butler	1903-1904	H. D. Hanford	1924-1925
S. H. Chapin	1904-1910	Clark E. DeForest	1925-1928
Jerome S. Seacord	1910-1914		

#### MAYORS

Clark E. DeForest	1928-1933	Wayne L. Tyson	1953-
John M. Hopkins	1933-1953		



## VILLAGE ATTORNEYS

First and only Charles C. Flaesch 1904-1920 without compensation. 1920 to 1952 regularly appointed with salary of \$25.00 plus extras. Some question exists as to this record and Jerome S. Seacord is recorded as village attorney from 1910-1914. Livingston S. Latham 1953-.

## VILLAGE CLERKS

W. E. Edson	1889-1891	Willis J. Topliff	1908-1953
Leland M. Cowles	1891-1904	Clerk for 8 Presidents and 2	
James H. Benedict	1904-1908	Mayors.	
		Mae M. Topliff	1953-

## VILLAGE TREASURERS

W. H. Heslop	Frank M. Tyson, Treasurer
W. H. Crooker	and Collector
Edward S. Griffin	James G. Vought
Alfred E. Pixley	Willis J. Topliff
	Mae M. Topliff

## TRUSTEES

Wesley Mulford	William Dickson
John Wiesmer	J. W. Vroman
H. C. Gregory	Charles Emerson
Elisha Huyck	Dr. F. H. Smith
Wesley Mulford	C. E. DeForest
John Fisk	Fred Fowler
S. H. Chapin	J. J. Carmichael
Wesley Mulford	Robert Wochendorfer
Spencer Eells	John M. Hopkins
M. P. Sweet	Riley Himelberger
A. D. Oles	W. C. Boyd
P. H. Carney	Howard Smith
George D. Raitt	Lynn Earl
Samuel Hodges	Van Sherman
George Whitaker	Ira Moore
Marshall Robinson	Edwin R. Chamberlain
A. E. Seaman	Ercell Clark
George N. Griswold	Richard Webb
C. O. Potter	Lester Boynton

## VILLAGE COLLECTORS

A. H. Meeker  
 M. H. Duly  
 M. B. Gregory  
 D. Y. Drew  
 William LePine  
 Charles P. Frank  
 Chester H. Belknap  
 George I. Huftalen  
 Albert L. Gates  
 David H. Crandall

Ora E. Fisk  
 James L. Ingraham  
 F. J. H. Berg  
 Carl Vinton  
 Adelbert Crandal  
 Foster Bilyea  
 Maggie Weidman  
 W. J. Topliff  
 Emily Carpenter <sup>3</sup>

Meantime, let us look at 1940. Most of the following information comes from the files of the *Unadilla Times* which have been carefully examined. On December 30th fire completely destroyed the Globe Silo plant. This was about 9:30 p.m. and the firemen worked successfully to save the Hansen residence and the lumber yards adjoining. Mr. Hansen came to Unadilla in 1932 and began operation of the Silo in 1934. He plans to rebuild with a modern structure of concrete block and with a concrete silo.<sup>4</sup> A Woman's Club dance was held on this evening and many firemen fought the fire in tuxedos.

It is recorded that the local post office serves over 2500 people in the village and rural routes. The actual figures are 1150 locally and 1411 rurally. John Vroman, one of the veteran mail carriers of this area, had an average daily route of 53.61 miles under normal weather conditions and on winter days it increased sometimes to 100 miles. Clarence Strain's route is 42.83 miles normally sometimes double that during the winter.<sup>5</sup> Skipping over to the files of 1942 we find that the post office was moved from the Seaman Block on the corner of Main and Martin Brook to the Atken Block (Hildreth Block) on Main St., former store of William Sutton. The post office had been in the Seaman Block for 40 years.<sup>6</sup>

We have a new enterprise in Unadilla's Five and Dime which made its debut January 20, 1940. Mr. A. W. Eichenberger was the proprietor and served in that capacity several years until the store was taken over by the F. E. Meads.<sup>7</sup>

There was also a fire at Lee's grocery store that year. Four families were homeless and Chief Wyman and his men battled the blaze for 5 hours on Sunday, May 19, 1940 at 1:00 a.m.

This building was formerly the Unadilla Hotel involved in the fire of 1904, but had been converted into a store and living quarters. It was owned at the time by Milo G. Albright, later by Arthur Lee.<sup>8</sup>

The Magneto Company was rushing its building program at Sidney. 31,000 ft. of addition floor space was to be completed on or before July 1, 1940. The building contractors were Frank Lewis & Sons of Bainbridge. A Scintilla official, L. W. Trees, predicted air freight. He said planes exclusively carrying freight is but a matter of months. "Streamline planes that carry passengers with a cruising speed of 100 miles per hour are on the market now and may be purchased from a number of manufacturers." <sup>9</sup> The coming of Scintilla to Sidney has made a great deal of development possible for this entire area. During the war years, employment in that factory reached a total of at least 8500 and many of the employees of the Scintilla reside in Unadilla and vicinity. This is one of the places where the war effort of our community has been most noteworthy, for the Scintilla Company, a division of the Bendix Corporation, which in turn is controlled by General Motors, was enlarged throughout the war in the manufacture of vital equipment for airplanes of both the Army and Navy. It has consistently given the residents of the area needed employment and has been one of the factors encouraging the development of this whole area.

On April 12 the voters of Unadilla turned down a proposal to improve the local water system and enlarge the mains at an estimated cost of \$25,000. There were only 81 votes cast, 53 against and 28 for.<sup>10</sup>

During the year 1941 a report of the census was published. The population in 1930 of Unadilla was 1,979 and in 1940, 1,063.<sup>11</sup>

Continuing the development of the Scintilla Magneto Company, the old wooden buildings which originally housed the factory were demolished by wreckers in 1941. This old factory was originally built by the Sidney Sash and Blind Company which moved there from Unadilla in 1892,<sup>12</sup> and afterwards became the Hatfield Carriage Works. It is our understanding that it at one time was used in the manufacture of an early type of automobile. The Scintilla Company have expanded the



property and built modern factory buildings, greatly in excess of the original floor space.

During the year, Livingston Latham was elected District Attorney, which gave Unadilla its first county official since 1899. Since that time he has been the Surrogate of Otsego County serving with distinction.<sup>13</sup>

A bill was introduced opening the way for a six-township hospital for this area and this was approved by Governor Lehman.<sup>14</sup>

July 4th marked the occasion of the Otsego County Convention of the American Legion and the big 4th of July celebration. It opened with a monstrous parade of 1,000 Legionnaires, local bands, and visiting firemen who marched on Main Street followed by many unique floats. There were five divisions of the parade, and a newspaper report conservatively estimated the attendance at between 6,500 and 7,000 people. It marked a three-day event, opening with band concerts, block dances, and ending with the big parade, one of the largest in Unadilla's history.<sup>15</sup>

The record of the other events of the year tell that the milk strike by the dairy farmers union began quietly on July 4th.<sup>16</sup> On the 14th the USO drive began with a quota of \$275.<sup>17</sup> It was predicted that Unadilla, Sidney and Bainbridge would have dial phones by Thanksgiving.<sup>18</sup> August 1st, the Unadilla National Bank declared a 50% stock dividend.<sup>19</sup> At the Walton and Norwich Fairs, Chambers' horses won two pulling contests.<sup>20</sup> The Fire Department reported a new fire truck and pumping engine costing a sum of \$5,400.<sup>21</sup>

It was at this time that the *Unadilla Times* began a very interesting series of articles entitled "Know Your Unadilla." Veterans of the Revolutionary War buried in this area are listed as follows:

Seth Rowley—enlisted at age 16, died at Sand Hill age 91  
 Asahel Packard—83, buried at St. Matthews  
 Capt. Amos Bostwick—86, St. Matthews  
 Capt. Josiah Thatcher—85, St. Matthews  
 Josiah Reed—86, Unadilla Center Cemetery  
 Samuel Bartholomew—78, Unadilla Center Cemetery  
 Elisha Luther—91, Foster burying ground, Unadilla

John Sisson—70, private ground on Sisson Hill (great grandfather of Mrs. Frank Davy)  
 John Hough—75, Foster burying ground  
 Chedor Collins—66, private ground at Sand Hill  
 Adj. John Rogers—81, Unadilla Center Cemetery  
 Joseph Batterson—(age unknown) Unadilla Center Cemetery  
 David Hall—77, St. Matthews

War of 1812:

John Fisk—89, Unadilla Center Cemetery  
 Lysander Curtis—99, Rogers Hollow  
 Capt. Elish S. Saunders—killed in battle of Queenstown, Ontario, October 13, 1812: buried near monument to Senator Brock who lost his life in same engagement  
 Thomas Graves—65, St. Matthews  
 Joel Woodruff—76, St. Matthews  
 Simons Lewis—66, Wilbur burying ground at Sand Hill  
 John Marble—age unknown, Rogers Hollow  
 Samuel Smith—76, at or near Unadilla Center Cemetery  
 John Smith—71, Unadilla Center Cemetery <sup>22</sup>

Subsequent articles gave the list of supervisors of the town of Unadilla from 1796:

1796-1797	David Baits
1798-1802	Solomon Martin
1803-1804	Gurdon Huntington
1805-1808	Isaac Hayes
1809	Gurdon Huntington
1810	Isaac Hayes
1811	Gurdon Huntington
1812-1814	Ransom Hunt
1815	Silas Scott
1816	Samuel Betts
1817	Ransom Hunt
1818	Isaac Hayes
1819-1820	Thaddeous A. Austin
1821-1824	Isaac Hayes
1825	Curtis Noble
1826-1828	Sherman Page
1829	Curtis Noble
1830	Sherman Page
1831	John Eells, Jr.
1832	Horace Griswold
1833-1834	C. D. Fellows
1835	Albert Benton
1836	Lyman DeForest
1837	Charles C. Noble
1838	C. D. Fellows

1839	Nijah Cone
1840	Thomas J. Davis
1841-1842	Martin B. Luther
1843	Elihu Cornwell
1844	C. D. Fellows
1845-1846	Dr. John Colwell
1847	George W. Noble
1848	Benjamin H. Ayers
1849	David Hough
1850	Thomas Heath
1851	F. A. Bolles
1852	C. K. Hayes
1953	Thomas J. Davis
1854	Zacriah Curtis
1855	A. D. Williams
1856	Charles N. Houghston
1857	D. W. Wilmot
1858	G. L. Halsey
1859	A. N. Benedict
1860	Daniel Lee
1861-1862	George B. Fellows
1863	Marvin C. Allen
1864-1867	Joseph D. Curtis
1868	James B. Peck
1869-1870	David P. Loomis
1871-1872	Milo B. Gregory
1873-1874	Ransom Potter
1875	Samuel H. Chaffin
1876	C. D. Fellows
1877-1879	S. G. Cone
1880-1884	F. B. Arnold
1885	David P. Loomis
1886-1887	Frank M. Sisson
1888-1889	Joseph D. Curtis
1890	William D. Edson
1891-1892	David P. Loomis
1893-1895	Joseph D. Curtis
1896-1897	Leland M. Cowles
1898-1908	Eugene Carr
1909	C. E. DeForest
1910-1915	C. E. DeForest
1916-1919	John M. Hopkins
1920-1930	William Dickson
1931-1943	Wayne Tyson
1943	Earl Winger <sup>23</sup>



December 7, 1941, is an historic date which has already been mentioned. Mr. Frederick T. Sherman was elected as the chairman of the Red Cross whose quota for 1941 was \$2,250. 1942 marked the resignation of Rev. Yale Lyon who had been rector of St. Matthew's Church for 31½ years. He came to Unadilla from Hoosic Falls and Oxford, England where he had been studying. He became rector of the St. Matthew's Church, July 13, 1910. For 27 years he was the scoutmaster of the Boy Scout Troop No. 1 and in his various fields of endeavor he had given untiring efforts and left a lasting and uplifting impression on the community.<sup>24</sup> He was appointed Rector Emeritus by the Vestry of the church.<sup>25</sup>

It is recorded that triple honors came to local townsmen. In addition to the election as Rector Emeritus to the Rev. Yale Lyon, Dr. Joshua Sweet was made Professor of Experimental Surgery, Emeritus at Cornell University and the Hon. Charles C. Flaesch, the founder and first president of the Otsego County Bar Association, was elected President Emeritus of that group.<sup>26</sup> January of 1942 marked the first test blackout under the direction of the Unadilla Defense Council. "Immediately upon the signal being given, see that there is no light showing from your house. The Air Raid Wardens will take the names of people who fail to blackout their homes and these will be reported to the Army headquarters. The police are to stop all cars. Everyone is to stay indoors unless they are assigned duties to perform during the blackout. This blackout does not mean just the houses but every business place as well."<sup>27</sup> In June of that year, Unadilla's air spotting post was operating 24 hours a day and on November 26 of the same year we had a dedication of the new Observation Post. George Silvernell became the Chief Observer and the dedication ceremonies were carried off with the Boy and Girl Scouts, Unadilla-Franklin band veterans of World War 1 and observers. The post stood on the land of George M. LePine overlooking many miles of the Susquehanna Valley.<sup>28</sup>

Dr. Joshua Sweet, previously mentioned, became the head of the hospital in Sidney and the cornerstone was laid on August 2nd of that year (1942).<sup>29</sup> The proposal to make this a community hospital had not been approved by the various

villages and Sidney went ahead with the project and built a modern hospital which has served the entire area, performing a much-needed service.

Coffee rationing began on November 28—one pound every five weeks for each person over fifteen years of age.<sup>30</sup>

We should record the death of Lou Sherwood on August 21, who had been ill for nearly eighteen years.<sup>31</sup> Also the death of Mary Hyde Hayes the last of the Hayes family in Unadilla.<sup>32</sup> Also the death of Mary B. Sands the widow of William G. Sands.<sup>33</sup> Dr. F. S. Heimer, who had been active in our community in many activities<sup>34</sup> and also the death of William H. Davy at 90 years of age the oldest blacksmith in our village.<sup>35</sup>

1943 records that Otsego County was fourth in the state in percentage of war bond sales. A total of \$197,868 or 153.9% over the quota for December was raised.<sup>36</sup> It marked the second, third and fourth war bond drives. In the second loan ending June 30, the township of Unadilla contributed \$209,388.75 to go over the top. Third war loan quota was \$60,000 and Unadilla raised \$111,800. Fourth war loan quota was \$98,500. Just at the end of the year and on February 18, 1944, it was reported that Unadilla had met its full quota again. A. W. Eichenberger was the chairman of several of these war loan drives and the rest of the committee was: Carl Pomeroy, Charles Sisson, Howard Smith, Clarence Schultz, Walter Hunt, Lynn Earl, Mrs. H. Lee Ward.<sup>37</sup> In each of these Unadilla took a very active part, as the figures show, and raised its full quota or more every time. Our record of financial support has been outstanding. Not only were we involved in war loans, but in scrap drives, United War Fund projects in which J. Stanley Earl was the chairman with the 1943 quota being \$2,250, but also in victory garden projects in which on September 17, 1943, at the flower and victory garden exhibit held in the Unadilla Central School, the sale of bonds and stamps amounted to \$4,769.05.<sup>38</sup>

This was the year in which it was announced that George Silvernell was to take over the Joyce stores. Mrs. Ella Joyce retired after operating the store for eighteen years following the death of her husband.<sup>39</sup> The store has remained one of the

fine enterprises of Unadilla and has expanded and developed in the years that have passed.

A Respirator Squad was organized, with Lee Pierce and Ronnie Jacobs as co-captains. The other members were: James Stilson, Dr. J. M. Constantine, A. W. Evans, Walter O'Connor, Jay Borden, F. H. Smith, Rev. Moore, Robert D'Imperio, Ward Edmunds, Lester Boynton, Jack Jones, Ed Weidman, A. J. Teed.<sup>40</sup>

New Auto Use Stamps costing \$5.00 were issued in July and it became necessary to have one of these stamps in order to obtain gasoline.<sup>41</sup>

The United War Fund campaign continued in 1943, with a quota of \$2,250 and with J. Stanley Earl as chairman. Two-thirds of the proceeds went to the United Service Organization, U.S.O., and the remainders being used in the Community Chest.<sup>42</sup>

Canning rationing began on March 26th.<sup>43</sup> Meat rationing began on March 29 with sixteen points a person per week,<sup>44</sup> and everyone became conscious of the necessary war efforts.

On April 23, 1943, the *Unadilla Times* began its 89th year. The record of the *Times* goes back to 1822, although it was not named the *Unadilla Times* until 1855. Following is the article which appeared in the April 23 issue:

"From 1822 on there have been a number of newspapers established in Unadilla moved first by a measure no doubt by the incessant agitation for the formation of a new county with Unadilla as the county seat, as in the early days it was thought that only at the shire town of a county could a weekly paper be published. The first paper established was by William Daily who came here from Liberty and opened a printing office as part of Dr. Huntington's store building.

"In 1840 Edward S. Groves of Cooperstown began the publication of the *Susquehanna News*. Groves remained for about a year when the plant passed on to George W. Noble, who changed the name to the *Unadilla News* and continued for three months before its discontinuance. An issue of *Unadilla News* is at the *Times* office: Vol. 2, No. 6, Whole No. 60, George Noble. \$2.00 yearly if paid in advance; \$2.50 at end of year.



"In 1842 Edson S. Jennings a portion of the time in partnership with T. S. Arms published the *Unadilla Courier* for 18 months but the effort never gained a sustaining patronage. The next newspaper venture was William Hawley of Coopers-town who christened his hope the *Unadilla Herald* but it soon went the way of its predecessors.

"In 1855 came John Brown, a Scotch printer from Schoharie County, who launched the *Unadilla Times* at its inception the best newspaper to greet Unadilla people. After a year the office passed to the possession of E. S. Watson of Bainbridge who continued for a few weeks then the *Times* elapsed for a brief period to be revived by George B. Fellows at the urgent request of businessmen and it has since continued without interruption. Starting under decidedly unfavorable circumstances Mr. Fellows placed the business on a sound basis. He continued as editor and publisher until 1865 when he sold it to George E. Beadle who a year or so later disposed of it to Gilbert A. Dodge of Whitney Point.

"Mr. Dodge changed the names of the paper to *Home and Abroad* and the makeup to eight pages the present size of the *Times*. It was the most pretentious effort in the newspaper line undertaken in Unadilla. It was Mr. Dodge's ambition to make *Home and Abroad* not only a country paper, but one with a general circulation. It was devoted to choice literature, news, agriculture, Masonic intelligence, etc., to use the language of its own masthead. Mr. Dodge sold the business in 1875 to A. J. Barlow a printer from Deposit who changed the name to the *Unadilla Times* again and discontinued the general features. Mr. Barlow was the editor and publisher for 11 years and did what none of his predecessors accomplished, made money.

"Mr. Barlow was succeeded by Newell and Parsons. Mr. Newell was a printer who had been employed in the office and Mr. Parsons was a local businessman. Then came Ed S. Little of Afton followed by Prof. Robert F. Sullivan who had been at the head of the old Unadilla Academy, Rev. Benjamin F. Ripley, Prof. Sullivan again, George D. Raitt, and after his death by his widow, Mrs. T. R. Raitt.<sup>45</sup>

"Eighteen years ago (1943) it was purchased by its present owner, Mr. Lynn Earl, who sincerely hopes that the pleasant

relations with business people and general public may continue and that the *Unadilla Times* will render a definite service to the community. Mr. Earl is also a director of the Unadilla National Bank and owner of the Sidney Favorite Printing Press, owned and operated the paper for 28 years. In 1953 it was sold to Arthur Ingalls a former resident of Unadilla who had successfully published a paper at Schenevus, N.Y. We now come to the centennial date and plans are being made for its recognition. The files of the *Unadilla Times* have been of great value. It is hoped that fire resistant storage for this historical data may be made available soon."

Early in 1944 there was a report that under the supervision of the Unadilla Motor Corps 48,470 bandages were made in the Red Cross rooms by 338 workers in 2,635 hours. This was reported by Mrs. Grenell Stilson one of the instructors. The other instructors were: Mrs. H. Lee Ward, Mrs. Harold Sherman, Mrs. Howard Wood, Mrs. H. D. Melton, Mrs. Poole continued as inspector.<sup>46</sup>

Unadilla continued to do its full quota in the Red Cross. On March 31 we reported \$3,278.20 actually turned in thus becoming the first town in the country to meet its quota.<sup>47</sup>

Two new businesses were reported. A. J. Decker started a modern dry-cleaning plant in the former A&P block on Martin Brook Street.<sup>48</sup>

A Modern Zero Food Locker was promoted, this to be installed in the old milk factory by Carlton G. Whitaker.<sup>49</sup> Earl Winger purchased the implements and parts business on the boulevard from A. H. Ives.<sup>50</sup> Postal receipts for the year ending June 30 totaled \$71,246 as reported by postmaster Howard Smith,<sup>51</sup> and the Unadilla Central School Budget was \$74,566.95.<sup>52</sup>

D Day, the invasion of Europe, was received quietly on June 6, 1944, by the citizens of Unadilla. Mayor John Hopkins announced a prayer service on the Community House lawn and various services were held in the churches of the village.<sup>53</sup>

The fifth war loan committee announced that the quota was \$102,500 which was over subscribed.<sup>54</sup> The sixth war loan drive with Miss Ethel Clarke and Galen de Forest added to the

committee had a quota of \$92,500 and under date of December 22 reported \$169,750 raised.<sup>55</sup>

The faculty of U.C.S. issued the ration "A" gasoline coupon renewals.<sup>56</sup> J. Stanley Earl continued as chairman of the U.S.O. drive with the total of the Community Chest and the U.S.O. amounting to \$5,550 which was over subscribed.<sup>57</sup> More than 7,000 employees and guests witnessed the Army-Navy "E" banner being raised over Scintilla which was awarded a second time to the Magneto Division at Sidney.<sup>58</sup>

Sugar canning coupons were on restriction<sup>59</sup> and victory war gardens were available that spring through Mrs. Maude Martin and the Unadilla War Council.<sup>60</sup>

1945) The town supervisor, Earl Winger, reported this year that the village indebtedness has been fully paid. Tax rates for the year are \$14.00 for village property and \$17.00 for property outside the village. School enrollment is noted at the highest in years with 419 pupils with Louis Abel as principal.

Chairman A. W. Eichenberger reported that Unadilla nearly doubled its quota for the sixth war loan drive. Sales were \$182,100 and the quota \$92,500. We were the first town in the county to reach its quota. The chairman was assisted by Carl Pomeroy, Walter L. Hunt, Howard Smith, Charles Sisson, Miss Ethel Clarke, Galen de Forest and Lynn Earl. Later the seventh war loan quota \$100,000 was quickly met, again the first town in the county.

The papers were full of reports of our young people in the armed service with battle stars, air medals and other awards from every theatre of the war activity scattered around the world.

The last blacksmith shop ceased to exist with the death of Henry Schrier. It was the old stone building on Bridge Street now occupied by Earl Winger's Farm Machinery Sales and Display. Originally the building was one story erected prior to 1890 and was operated by Herbert and Edward Gates, Uncles of the late Albert Gates from Fellows Street. It was then operated successfully by Robert Stensen, James Ter Brook and Morgan Makeley who added the second story for living quarters. Thus we note again the changes that are taking place



in our methods of living. A horse is a rare sight these days of mechanized farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Youngs celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with all their children and their families in attendance. The same year, March 12th, Mr. and Mrs. David Fisk celebrated a 55th wedding anniversary, with all of their married life being spent in Unadilla. Three guests at the celebration attend the wedding 55 years before. Mr. and Mrs. Willis C. Boyd also celebrated a 50-year anniversary as did Mr. and Mrs. Floyd House and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lobdell. It was a year of Golden Weddings.

Red Cross quota of \$3,000 was exceeded by over \$1,100 according to reports by Mrs. J. E. Sweet, chairman, while flags flew at half mast on the occasion of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's death. V.E. Day was celebrated quietly with services in each of the churches and at the school. Business places were closed for the afternoon.

Deaths of Rev. Yale Lyon, William G. Olds, Heenan Quimby, Lynn Peck, Ernest Rathbun, W. D. Hanford, George H. Nichols, Mrs. Rose Harrison are but a few whose passing brings sorrow to many who knew them.

Word was received of the death of Pfc. Alfred G. Corgan, killed in action April 12th, a paratrooper in the Screaming Eagle Division and a memorial service was conducted by Rev. Clayton Hoag at The Methodist Church.

Thus another eventful year moved on into history with these items from the records of the *Oneonta Star* and scrapbooks by Mrs. Frank Davy.

1946 records several items of interest. On February 22, there was a report that a ship named the "Unadilla" was among the 48 New York State ships marked for atom bombing: "48 ships bearing names of places in N.Y.S. took part in the recent war, the United States Navy disclosed last Friday. The venerable battleship 'New York' now assigned as a target for the atomic bombing in May led the heavy cruisers 'Albany' and 'Rochester' and on down the list to the harbor tug, 'Unadilla.' The 'Unadilla' is one of the oldest ships in the Navy and is a veteran of three wars: Spanish-American, and World Wars I and II. District Attorney Latham, who was recently discharged

from the Navy, said that he was on the 'Unadilla' when it was in harbor in San Francisco and that he took a short cruise on the craft."<sup>61</sup>

This was the year in which we had the heaviest snowfall in six years.<sup>62</sup> The March of Dimes, the Polio Drive opened January 14th with a quota of \$6,000 for Otsego County.<sup>63</sup> It marked on the date of April 5th the death of Tracy Morse at the age of 94. He had been a Mason for sixty-nine years, President of the village, seventy years a member of the Vestry of St. Matthew's Church, and had conducted a tailor business for many years in Unadilla.<sup>64</sup> On May 10th a bill appropriating \$1,200,000,000 which included the East Sidney Dam project was approved by President Truman.<sup>65</sup> The 25th anniversary of the Community House was celebrated on June 7th,<sup>66</sup> and a windstorm of hurricane proportions swept through Unadilla in the second week of June causing a great deal of damage.<sup>67</sup> Riley H. Heath was the Old Home Day speaker with the Legion in charge of the arrangements.<sup>68</sup> Dr. Hust arrived to establish a practice in Unadilla.<sup>69</sup> Jay Margueson opened his new diner.<sup>70</sup> J. Stanley Earl became head of the N.Y.S. Breeder's Cooperative.<sup>71</sup>

An interesting article entitled "The Elm Trees of Unadilla" was published as follows:

"Unadilla has long been noted for the beauty of its elms. The late Arthur Palmer photographed the giant elm that stands on the open flat above the Long River Inn—a beautifully taken picture of a most magnificent tree. I was thumbing over a school book, in a place far from here, when I chanced to notice an illustration. It was a picture of East Main Street taken in front of the Central School building looking straight east to the end of the town and it showed the elm trees on either side making a graceful arch completely shading the road. The view was perfectly familiar; I had seen it since my childhood when it was 'the way home' but to find that picture of my native town so unexpectedly—then first did I fully realize how beautiful Unadilla is.

"When the first settlers came here, the Martin Brook was a much larger stream than the one we now see. The main course was about where it now is, but after it crossed Main

Street it took an abrupt left turn, flowed past the rear of St. Matthew's Church, crossed Mill Street and ran along the edge of the property of our genial friend, Carl Vinton. So that the lower course of the stream we call the Binniekill was really the Martin Creek.

"The Martin Creek had another peculiarity. Near the residence of Mr. Vernon Holiday a branch separated from the main stream and took a circuitous route across the swampy land to the neighborhood of the corner of Sperry and Adams where it turned, flowed through land that is now many people's gardens, and joined the main stream near the post office. My authority for these statements is the original survey map that was the property of the late Clark I. Hayes.

"Along this branch of the Martin Brook have grown some of our largest elm trees. The huge triple tree that stands in Adams Street at Butternut Street is seventeen feet and three inches in circumference, measured three feet up from the ground. It is next to the largest tree in town and undoubtedly the most interesting.

"The Reverend Norman Adams in 1823 built the house now owned by Mrs. Harry Brion and occupied by Miss Emma Curtis, much of the village land along Martin Brook Street was his farm. I am told that the space now enclosed by Martin Brook Street, Butternut Street, Adams Street, and Main Street was not then occupied by houses and the Reverend Mr. Adams had it landscaped to suit his taste—certainly some of the apple trees of his orchard still stand. When the village wished to open streets to accommodate increased population Mr. Adams offered to give the land for the street which bears his name, provided that this triple tree be left standing. It was at the corner of his enclosure and he admired it greatly, even in those times it was a very large tree. Elms live to be 150 years old or longer if they have plenty of water. They are trees of the low land. But 'Times makes ancient good uncouth' and this beautiful tree that antedates the settlement of the town is being removed. Dying of old age the falling branches were a continual danger. Horsedrawn chaises and phaetons occupied by ladies and gentlemen no longer pass. Instead automobiles driven by men and women fly by. This grand old tree was out of place



in this day and age. And so passes what was indeed a landmark.

"Mr. Francis D. Meeker has measured the large elm trees in the village and has kindly given me his findings. The largest of all is not along a street. It stands near the back of Mr. George Crandall's home on Clifton Street and measures 18 feet and 2 inches in circumference. The large triple tree is next in size at 17 feet and 8 inches. The one in front of Mr. Harold Tyson's is 13 feet and 7 inches and the one on the corner of Main and Adams Streets is 12 feet and 5 inches. All these measurements were made three feet up from the ground.

"The elm trees that were recently removed from the yard of the Central School are of special interest too. They were not yet full grown trees, although they were planted about 1870. At that time the late Hon. Frank B. Arnold was the principal, 'Professor' as the incumbent of that position was then called. Professor Arnold and his pupils transplanted those small trees and placed them on either side of the walk leading to the old Academy, just where the walk branched to lead to the two doors at either end of the building. Among the youth who helped with that work was my father, Spencer Eells and the harum-scarum boy, Richard Johnson, of Richfield Springs. Dick as he was called was the despair of his teachers. Professor Arnold was excellent at managing young people and so good a teacher that many out of town pupils were sent here among them Dick. It is recorded that once every two weeks Professor Arnold laid Dick over the railing in the upper hall and gave him a sound spanking. (My older readers will remember that railing, maybe other incidents of a similar nature could be told. It worked! Dick learned and turned out to be a most worthwhile man.)

"So as we pass along the elm shaded streets we can think of those trees as a heritage the forefathers left us and one that can be enjoyed by those who come after us." (Miss Anna A. Eells)<sup>72</sup> The trees which are mentioned as being the largest trees in the village are all now victim of the Dutch Elm disease and have been removed.

Another interesting book in the possession of Lynn Earl which comes to our attention is the ledger of Noble Hayes. It is a bound book, with very heavy rag paper apparently of English

manufacture, for each of the pages bears a watermark showing the crown and seal of Brittanica and some of the pages with a crown the initials GR and the date 1788. The first entry of the book is November 29, 1800, and it runs through a series of years up to and including 1820. The first entries in a beautiful penmanship are recorded in English pounds, shillings and pence. As the book progresses at about 1812 payments are noted in dollars. For example, "Cash for merchandise \$140, converted to 45 pounds" and as the book goes along it transfers entirely to the dollar system. This new Federal money "was not too well understood—men who were used to paying one shilling for their half pound of tobacco were not sure they were getting their money's worth when the merchant asked for twelve and a half cents for it. And that half cent could actually be paid, for the Philadelphia mint made half pennies. George Huftalen's excellent collection of early American coins and paper money contains several half pennies marked 1/200 of a dollar.

"Banks were unknown except in cities and where a large sum of money was used in business transactions it had to be sent by a carrier. Many hundreds of dollars were frequently sent from here to Bogardus and DuBois in Catskill or to Orrin Day in Catskill. He was then a merchant, afterward founder of the National Bank in Catskill. He was Robert D'Imperio's great grandfather.

"Travel was slow by horseback or ox cart, there was no other way of getting about. And it was dangerous too. Breathtaking stories are told of hair-breadth escapes from robbers for we were then a frontier community. All the money used was metal money, paper money that we now handle so constantly was then unknown. Most of the early settlers were poor, but it is known that Daniel Bissell, Sr., in 1789 brought here English gold crowns to the value of \$7,000. He came from Catskill and farther back from Hartford, Conn. I suspect most of the settlers brought with them at least a little money for while they were poor they were also thrifty.

"Even though money was scarce that is why many old accounts speak of '52 pounds of hides to the value of 6 bbls. of salt.' The one was traded for the other. That practice was so common that many of us still speak of 'doing our trading.'

"Taxes, however, had to be paid in money and people had to save coins the whole year in order to have enough. From 1831-1848 taxes on a large farm were from \$5 to \$7.60. That seems small to us but a farmer's income was also small.

"In 1802 fifty-six bushels of wheat sold for \$49.00; pork brought \$.62 per barrel. A barrel of ashes sold for \$10. In 1803 a bushel of salt cost \$.40, a bedcord \$.36, spelling books cost 1 shilling and 6 pence. Children learned also to read from these spelling books so they were worth the price. Ginger was \$.12½ a pound, whiskey \$.09 a quart.

"There ancient accounts are written on rag paper dated by watermark 1788, handmade in London, watermarked with the British crown and England as Mistress of the Seas. They speak of times and conditions so different from our own, yet that in itself shows the versatility of the American people." (Miss Anna A. Eells <sup>73</sup>)

It is interesting to follow some of these transactions, particularly in reference to Catskill merchants since Catskill and Unadilla were so closely related by the construction of the Susquehanna Turnpike. The reference to Bogardus is on page 23 of this interesting ledger. The *Catskill Examiner* in its Centennial issue of 1930 which was a monumental piece of newspaper publishing for a small country paper, traces Capt. Bogardus as a skipper of the "Thomas Jefferson" who had married one of the DuBois daughters and there are several references in the ledger to Bogardus and DuBois. Another interesting fact is found on page 35 of the ledger, in the account of Atwater, Cooke and Dwight, hardware merchants of Catskill. In the Centennial issue of the *Examiner* we find that Day and Holt Company hardware merchants had their beginning back in 1810 and this hardware business shows continuous existence for 120 years. It was founded by Thomas Burrage Cook and in 1817 there were 3 partners: Joshua Atwater, Sr., Thomas B. Cook and Benjamin W. Dwight under the name of Atwater, Cook and Dwight. The record from the ledger is dated October 15, 1817. Another interesting feature of the ledger is that in back of the book there are copies of pension records from the Department of Interior and the War Department. Practically all of these are Revolutionary War Claims for



veterans and their widows who were then entitled to pensions. Apparently the original had at one time been fastened into the book but these have all been removed in the period of time since elapsed, but the copies have been preserved. In the historical files are recorded the names of all these listed who were entitled to pensions.

Referring once more to the Centennial issue of the *Examiner* the record of the Catskill Turnpike is delineated through Leeds, South Cairo, Cairo, Winansville, Durham, West Durham, and Dies Manor. It apparently crossed the old stone bridge at Leeds. Mention has previously been made of the first edition of the Catskill newspaper called the *Catskill Packet*. The only mention of Catskill outside of the advertisements is an item reading "On Thursday the 26th ult. was completed the erecting a bridge over Catskill creek about five miles from landing on the great road to the back settlement. This bridge, for magnitude and elegance is inferior to none in this State." This is the record of the same old stone bridge at Leeds one of Greene Counties landmarks and apparently on the route of the Susquehanna Turnpike. The *Examiner* also makes mention of the fact that "it was only 1824 I believe when Lafayette's coach and four mired hopelessly right in front of the present modern drugstore of J. Mortimer DuBois." This is the same store which was started in 1795 and has been in continuous business as a pharmacy.

This brings us to the interesting fact that the "Fly" country or the "Vlie" at Unadilla has been converted into Buck Horn Lake. The certificate of incorporation was granted by the Secretary of State on August 20, 1948 forming a stock corporation in the Town of Unadilla known as Buck Horn Lake Inc. The site is located in back of the farms known as the Floyd House, Del Hodges, Martin and Winsor farms. The corporation has under contract or direct ownership of approximately 187 acres." <sup>74</sup> A lake of 70 to 100 acres has already been developed. "The *Unadilla Times* of October 22, 1948, tells of the fact that originally on this spot there was a beaver pond, and that the dam which had been formed was used to supply water for a saw mill. The article is as follows:

"Burt Gates tells us that in 1823 during the early pioneer

migration to the West his grandfather Lauren Gates and family crossed the Susquehanna River near the upper end of Unadilla and stopped over for a rest and for provisions. The Connecticut families plans to proceed farther West were cancelled and they settled on the flat above Unadilla being a part of the original Wallace Patent and their holdings being of two or more lots each forty rods wide and extended a mile westerly of the Susquehanna River. It was here that a blacksmith shop and temporary home were hastily built being the first buildings in this area.

"Blacksmithing kept Lauren Gates busy during the mid-day but by late afternoon most of the settlers had left his shop in order to return to their homes before dark. It was these late afternoon hours and evening with nothing to do to his fancy that prompted him to set up a steady business if possible. He also wanted to build a permanent home, but sawing lumber in those days was tiresome and monotonous. He considered using water power for a saw mill. The Susquehanna River evidently did not appeal to him for a permanent mill site, perhaps occasional high water prevented this. He visited the large beaver pond near the back end of his lot. Many acres were under water and by building an additional dam at the outlet, he reasoned he could maintain plenty of water to run his mill. This was done by the construction of a plank and pile dam. The planks were cut from several large pines near the shore of the Beaver Pond and just above the outlet. This Beaver Pond is now the Vly and the stumps from several of the large pine trees mentioned above can still be seen. They are in excellent condition considering they were cut 124 year ago. Much of this time however the stumps were under water which hardened them considerably.

"When the pond depth was increased satisfactorily a saw mill was erected at the out-let and so that the floating logs stored in the pond during the summer months could be moved into place and handled easily. It was here that Mr. Gates spent many afternoons and evenings sawing planks and lumber until eleven o'clock at night by lantern light. Much of the lumber sawed here was evidently hauled down to the Susquehanna River on the road that winds down through the hillside to the

Windsor Cove where it was chained into rafts and floated down the Susquehanna to market.

"Time has erased the wooden dam structure and piling supports together with the saw mill, but the general contours still faintly remain. When the wood section of the dam weakened and collapsed the natural embankment was washed out and none of this has been replaced through the years and the beaver too have long since disappeared from the area.

"In recent years, a drainage and canal system was used in the Vly and during the excavating many parts of beaver felled trees were uncovered.

"It is planned by Buck Horn Lake Inc. to reinstate this lake as a nucleus for summer and winter sports and recreations. Complete information and details can be obtained from John Van Cott, Charles Prentice, David Chambers, Walter L. Hunt or Wendall Bachman. This is a development for the surrounding territory Unadilla and nearby villages."

The idea of developing this lake was in the mind of Wendall Bachman and after several years of investigation, surveys, options, etc., the corporation above mentioned has organized with the help of several men in Unadilla and Sidney. They proceeded with the erection of a dam, building of roads, the stocking of the lake with fish, and there are at the present time about twenty cottages erected at the lake. The lake covers over 70 acres and the corporation holds nearly 300 acres of wood lands surrounding it. It has also been the site of the summer program of swimming, carried on by the village of Unadilla and is becoming one of the most delightful spots in Unadilla. 1955 about 25 camps and summer homes have already been built on its shores.

1945 marked the surrender of Japan and the end of the World War. Nearly every radio was turned on for the early morning ceremonies marking the end of the war, on the battleship "Missouri" with General Douglas McArthur taking the leading part in those ceremonies.

Gas rationing ended and the various other restrictions were soon lifted. The Unadilla Town Board at its meeting in June passed a resolution to revert back to the old method of having the office of Highway Commission an elective office instead



of an appointive position.<sup>75</sup> Unadilla is again recorded as being the first town in Otsego County to go over the top in its 7th War Loan Drive.<sup>76</sup> Every one of these financial campaigns had been carried off successfully through the splendid cooperation of the citizens of Unadilla. Dr. Harry Sutton was re-elected president of the Catskill Mountain Veterinary Medical Association.<sup>77</sup> The Unadilla Band appeared in new uniforms for a first public appearance and were enthusiastically received.<sup>78</sup> The year also marked the deaths of George H. Nichols, Henry F. Schrier, the last village blacksmith.<sup>79</sup>

In 1947 the American Legion purchased the Mulford Block for its permanent home with a local campaign for a building fund with which to remodel and restore the committee rooms. \$15,000 is the purchase price and a local campaign was instituted at once to assist the Legion in this important work.<sup>80</sup> There was also a Memorial Hospital Fund in memory of Dr. Ralph H. Loomis. The proceeds were to go for hospital improvements in Sidney,<sup>81</sup> where so many of our community have been served through this fine modern hospital. Work on the East Sidney Dam continued with the pouring of concrete.<sup>82</sup> The Rotary Club celebrated its 10th anniversary. The Community Chest was over the top and there began in our community overseas relief drives which were instituted by the church women and other groups to secure clothing, shoes, and blankets for the help of the needy in the war stricken areas.<sup>83</sup> On April 25th the proposed central fire station plan was presented for the approval of the village on an estimated cost of \$25,000<sup>84</sup> and this project was successfully carried through under the direction of Mayor John Hopkins on a site donated for that purpose by the Unadilla Silo Company on Clifton Street. It has proven a very desirable and useful village property with space for Fire Equipment Emergency Squad, and offices for Water Department etc. The Noble Street crossing of the D. & H. was eliminated and automatic swing lights and gates installed on Depot and Martin Brook Streets.<sup>85</sup>

Mention of Martin Brook St. brings to mind the fact that Unadilla has suffered on several different occasions with floods from Martin Brook. It might be wise to refer to these records

as they appeared in the *Unadilla Times* of 1903 and 1892. Photographs are also shown among the illustrations.

With the diversion of the course of Martin Brook so that it now runs directly into the eddy across Watson St. and through St. Matthew's Cemetery and also with the revision of the railroad bridges it is to be hoped that Martin Brook is now under control and that there will be no further serious damage from floods. *Unadilla Times* Files of July 19, 1935—History of Unadilla Floods as Taken from the *Times* 1892-1903, The Late Deluge (from *Times* of May 5, 1892).

Of all the reminders of that apparently peaceful stream which Martin Brook is and which it has ever given of its existence and what it could do under provocation the greatest was brought to the attention of this village on Tuesday night last (May 2, 1892).

It had been a warm spring afternoon, though the wind blew briskly from the west and at about 9 o'clock in the evening a heavy cloud hung over the entire western horizon, lighted up frequently by lurid flashes and its approach heralded by strong peals of thunder. The storm first raising the waters of the Martin Brook fell upon the high ridges where it has its source not far from 10:30 o'clock. Later clouds driven by an easterly wind met on the slopes leading down to this valley and poured their torrents into the tributaries of this now raging stream.

The course of the flood began well toward Unadilla Center and Rogers Hollow, carrying away every bridge. It swelled on its way to the dams of the North Water Works, and must have filled the channel there so completely that the great stone masonry was entirely out of sight. Tearing onward, overturning huge rocks as it went it swept part of the foundation of Mrs. Teed's house just out of the corporation, and carried off the bridge nearby, straightening by a swath 20 ft. wide nearly the entire bank fronting the premises of W. W. Cleaver and doing a great damage to the highway.

But Martin Brook St. was destined to be the scene of the greatest destruction. Across the stream a few rods below the Eells tannery a small shop has stood for some time. This the waters took up as though it had been a toy house carrying it

against the abutments and stringers, making a regular dam and completely turning the waters which with a fury they aroused and alarmed the neighborhood and village, dashed into the foundations of the buildings owned by D. R. Buckley, E. S. Jennings, and Amos Holmes filling the cellars ruining the foundations and almost turning the building off their base.

Part of the stream ran on toward the Hanford Wagon Works and part gouged out channels in the middle of the road averaging nearly four feet in depth almost the entire length of the street to the railroad. The waters passed the wagon works ran on a considerable distance below the residence of Col. Samuel North washing out the railroad track upwards of twenty four feet and was standing waist deep around most of the houses along the lower Main Street. The flood also followed around the residence of Marshall Robinson turning the corner of Fellow St. so that a boat was floated from the residence of Dr. Joshua Sweet and a horse and cow in the barn of A. J. Williams narrowly escaped perishing in the waters.

Meanwhile the sidewalks most of the way on that side of Main Street from the Bailey and Robinson block to the residence of C. I. Hayes were inundated and when the waters subsided at daybreak were covered with a thick coating of mud.

Through the night most of our citizens were out looking after their property and keeping good watch that no lives were endangered. Railroad travel was suspended at this point and early Wednesday morning a gang of men were clearing and grading so that business was resumed after a few hours delay.

Martin Brook St. was thronged most of the forenoon. The village authorities set to work immediately to turn the stream to its proper channel and to make the street passable. The roadway presents a sorry appearance and it will require a long time and a large amount of money to put it into shape as before. It is doubtless fortunate that the brook left its channel where it did, as greater damage must have resulted otherwise to the residences on either side of the banks.

The North Water Works behaved itself handsomely during all its severe trials. The only break of any importance was the washing away of the approach to the single span bridge at the upper end of the higher reservoir, and the severing of the main



near the tannery where the brook makes an abrupt turn. The supply to the village however was not affected with the exception of a few houses for the gate to the Kilkenny reservoirs were raised to feed the Martin Brook mains. The new dams have shown their power to resist the heaviest pressure and the interchangeable system by which one set of reservoirs is made to help out another set when it is dissembled or when both need to be brought into requisition, proves our system to stand in the highest rank.

The damage to individual property and the corporation is variously estimated at from \$7,000 to \$10,000.

\* \* \* \* \*

### WORST FLOOD IN YEARS

(From *Times* of July 24, 1903)

The worst flood in the history of this village so said, visited Unadilla on Wednesday afternoon. One death Mrs. Harriett Fink, results indirectly and the damage done to highways private property and to the Martin Brook Water Works System reservoirs will doubtless reach a total of \$14,000 to \$16,000.

Martin Brook is again the offender but in fairness it should be acknowledged that no human precaution could have entirely prevented the conditions now existing. Yet the low and narrow bridges the manner in which the banks have been encroached etc. are measurably responsible.

There was a heavy downpour of rain just before noon on Wednesday which swelled the stream and late in the afternoon rain fell in torrents. The water soon filled the banks, and at about 5 o'clock there came what is described by those who saw it a large wave or increased volume of water, said to have been four feet in height. The railroad bridges over the stream became choked as did the bridges near the old tannery site and at the entrance of Weidman St. from Martin Brook. The greatest damage resulted from this later bridge becoming partially clogged as the stream broke its banks just above and rushed down Martin Brook St. a portion of it dashing to the railway tracks, thence west to the wagon works, and about half the volume leaving the street between the homes of William

Rifenbark and Gustave Emirick cutting a deep channel. The water pursued this course until yesterday afternoon when it was diverted into its proper course, above the bridge.

Martin Brook St. now resembles the bed of a turbulent stream. It is gouged out in some places five or six feet in depth. The damage to residence property is the worst along Martin Brook St. above the railway, as the entire section was flooded, washed, gullied, gardens destroyed, property carried away, buildings partially undermined, stones, gravel and mud deposited, poultry and pigs drowned, etc. However the damage was not alone here but over the entire section of north of Main St. and west of Depot St. Cellars were filled, gardens destroyed and poultry drowned. Water came down Main St. to the Unadilla House and the flats below the wagon works were flooded, as were the homes on lower Main St. There was a large gorge of railway ties packed against the Wagon Works and considerable damage was done to the railroad tracks.

Filter dams and gravel catchers Nos. 3, 4, and 5 of the Martin Brook Reservoir are undamaged. A large quantity of mud is in No. 3. The actual cost of what was destroyed is \$10,128. The cost of replacing pipe lines, excavating, etc. is estimated at \$1,800. besides.

Some estimate of the damage to Martin Brook St. at \$1,000, but the corporation is not damaged at this point worse than by the flood of May 1892 which cost less than \$400 to repair.

There is mud everywhere.

1948 was again an eventful year in the history of Unadilla. Business at the post office was reported the largest in the history of Unadilla and the last quarter of the year exceeded that of any similar period in the history of the office.<sup>86</sup> There was a wreck on the D. & H. Railroad under date of Feb. 26 when 21 cars were derailed. Passengers and mail were rerouted. John Vroman retired as mail carrier after thirty-eight years of service.<sup>87</sup> A flood fund of \$2,700,000 was approved by the House, and Army engineers estimated that the project will save an average of 3 million dollars a year in flood damage in Binghamton, Endicott, Sidney and Unadilla.<sup>88</sup>

The Boy Scouts continued their activities. Two of 7 of Scouting's highest awards came to Unadilla. The first was to

Troop 1 of Unadilla for an outside camping merit badge exhibit, and the second was to Cub Pack 1 of Unadilla the President's award for its construction of miniature villages from match-sticks. These awards were from Otschedela council.<sup>89</sup>

Carl Dykeman was elected Vice President at the Otsego County Fireman's Association and the District Attorney gave the Memorial Day address.<sup>90</sup> The firehouse was completed in this year, with sufficient room for housing Unadilla's four pieces of fire-fighting equipment and the first aid car. The second floor is used for offices and contains a spacious assembly hall.<sup>91</sup>

Dave Chambers donated the use of his building which has the largest roof area in the village and the local Chamber of Commerce sponsored the air marker which was a guide to aircraft in this area. The marker was painted on the Chambers roof.<sup>92</sup> The Unadilla Emergency Squad purchased a new ambulance, giving them modern equipment and they have rendered an unusual service with their ambulance and trained Emergency Squad.<sup>93</sup>

1949 the work continued on the East Sidney Dam. The Community Chest was again successful going over the top. Repairs on the overhead bridge just above Unadilla were carried out.<sup>94</sup> Frederick J. Sisson Congressman died at Washington. He was 70 years of age and had been born at Wells Bridge.<sup>95</sup> There also appears an interesting account of the old brick store up town which has now been demolished to make a place for a modern gas station. This has previously been referred to in connection with the discovery of the old record of the bylaws of Unadilla from 1828 to 1855, but tells of the interesting rivalry between the up town and down town selections (as follows):<sup>96</sup>

With wreckers leveling one of Unadilla's most famed landmarks, the old Noble and Hayes block on Main and Depot streets will soon be but a memory. The following story by Miss Chase of this veteran structure is therefore of most timely interest.

(The first three paragraphs have been left out—no historical interest. The Brick store in Unadilla was situated on an im-



portant corner of the main street where it joined the road that led to the mill. Main Street brought those who came on foot, and wagons returning from the mill could stop and include store necessities in their return load of grist or lumber.)

"In 1800 an old primitive road, running from Catskill to Wattles ferry was improved into a turnpike. Contemporary with the opening of this road, was the coming of Curtis Noble and Isaac Hayes, two young merchants. (*Pioneers of Unadilla.*)

"These men founded the brick store on the corner, as important item in the success of their enterprise. In front of the store there was ample space to hitch the team near the long wooden platform, or at the rail in space to hitch the team. In case the visit prolonged itself, tall shade trees offered protection for the horses from the noonday sun. This corner was marked by big elm and maple. The Main St. was wide and shaded for a mile or so by noble trees. On a corner nearby was situated a hotel . . . with a big space back of its stables where traveling circuses set up their tents. It was a busy corner.

"The story of this Main and Mill Street center of the Academy and the old brick store, connects itself closely with the life of another citizen of the villa." As the Susquehanna Valley became more thickly settled, transfers of land brought lawyers to the village. It was in the old brick store that space was set aside by Frank B. Arnold for the transaction of legal matters.

"In the Academy building Frank B. Arnold's life in the village had its beginning. In the brick store he had his office and there he died. Under Mr. Arnold the Academy became very prosperous and never was a teacher more popular with the students. A memorial of his career may be seen in the trees that still stand near the sidewalk in those school grounds. They were planted by the hands of Mr. Arnold and his pupils."

As times became a little easier and the residents had some spare funds to set aside for the future, it became desirable to set up a bank. When organized the Unadilla Bank made use of the old brick store as a choice location. Mr. Arnold B. Watson "went into business on his own account in the brick store which had been erected across the street in 1832. There Mr. Watson continued to do business for many years and here he established

the Unadilla Bank which for more than twenty years was perhaps the most widely known bank in this part of the valley. Clark I. Hayes became his partner and by this firm the extensive operations of Noble Hayes were revived and long continued."

In the way of the early Yankee village the town spread itself along a mile or more of the river. As a greater number of places of business came into being, "A Downtown" and "An Uptown," folks began to want their part of town to be the main and important section. Rivalry of such a sort brought new enterprises to the Brick store Uptown as the Bank established a building of its own and merchants again set up their counters in this corner building.

"By 1820 many families were living along the old Butternut road running north from the Noble and Hayes store . . . at the base of the hill overlooking the village was a group of buildings belonging to merchants, stock dealers and farmers, gathered about the store and distillery of Noble and Hayes." (*Unadilla Times*, November 1892, Robert Scott Musson; see *Pioneers of Unadilla*, by Halsey.)

"The brick store was then occupied by the firm I think, although I am not positive of Noble and Emory, but it was soon changed to Watson and Noble and finally to Watson and Hayes." ("Reminiscences of Gaius Halsey," see *Pioneers of Unadilla*.)

"William A. Emory was a native of Maryland and was born in 1811. He came to Unadilla about sixty years ago and was all his life engaged in the dry goods trade in the brick building destroyed in the fire of 1878 later in the old brick store uptown."

"Mr. A. P. Gray came to Unadilla in 1832. In the rear of his house on land of his once existed a brickyard where were made the bricks used in constructing the store and destroyed in the fire of 1878 (and perhaps also in construction earlier to the old brick store uptown.)"

"Joel Bragg came to Unadilla in 1812. He built a new hotel on the site of Mr. Bissell's hotel, and when this burned he rebuilt it. . . ."

"Thus the years passed. . . . The old brick store uptown,

standing four-square to the sun, rising two stories high, with tiny oblong windows, once fitted in above a wooden pillar porch seems as staunch today as in days of the mill and the circus lot."

1950 the last year of the decade, the turning point of the century found several items of interest taking place. The Rotary Club honored three Unadillians for distinctive community service. The first was Frederick H. Meeker who was born in 1865 near East Sidney, and early moved to Unadilla where his father was post master. He began banking experience with North and Company as a cashier. Later he was in the lumber business and then worked for the Hanford Wagon Works. He was instrumental in the organization of the Unadilla National Bank and was cashier when it opened its doors, Dec. 27, 1909. He became its President at the death of Horace Chapin and continued actively in that capacity until his death. The second man to be honored was Jerome S. Seacord who was born in 1870. He was attorney for Standard Light Heat and Power Co. which enlarged the services of the original electric light plant in the condensed milk fatcory of H. Y. Canfield. They operated a power generating plant between Unadilla and Sidney on what is known as the old paper mill site. When this company was taken over by the New York State Electric and Gas he was retained as attorney to pass on title and bond issues. He has only recently given up the active practice of law and has held many offices in the village. The third honoree was John M. Hopkins who was born in West Rupert, Vt. and came to Unadilla in 1910 because of his interest in the silo business. He was an original stockholder in Unadilla Silo Co. and acted as Treasurer until 1944 when he was elected President on the death of Frank J. Van Cott. He was a member of the War Loan (Liberty Loans) Committees of World War I and was also Fuel Administrator. He was elected as Supervisor of the Town of Unadilla from 1915 to 1919 and has acted as Mayor from 1933 to 1953. Rotary was proud to honor these men for their community service which has been outstanding in each case.<sup>96</sup>

On June 14 the Army took over the East Sidney Dam at dedication ceremonies. The army engineers project cost \$6,900,000 and is one of seven dams proposed to protect the Triple



Cities and other Southern Tier communities from flood crests of the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers. It was thirty months in construction. The concrete center of the dam measures 750 feet across. It rises 128 feet above the bed of Ouleout Creek. The reservoir area will stop 38,700 acre feet of water before the creek starts cascading over the spillway. To provide for the reservoir the State Dept. of Public Works acquired title for easements to 132 properties upstream from the dam. Twelve cottages were displaced. Approximately 100 buildings of various description were removed or torn down.<sup>98</sup>

Another wreck occurred on the D. & H. Railway. Traffic was held up for 15 hours when 23 freight cars were demolished. It was the worst wreck on this division of the D. and H. in many years. Track was torn up 2100 feet, 800 feet west of overhead crossing.<sup>99</sup>

Red Cross drives, Community Chest, X Rays and various other community activities were carried on successfully. The Legion sponsored a project to clean up Chestnut Hill Cemetery which had been in a bad state of repairs.<sup>100</sup> The census for Unadilla reported that the 1950 population of Unadilla was 2277 and the 1940 population was 1711. The total population of the county was 46,082 in 1940 but increased to 50,911 in 1950. Actually this was a smaller population than the 1830 census indicated. In that year there were 51,372 people living in Otsego County.<sup>101</sup> The Unadilla Central School budget for 1949-1950 was \$152,932.53 and for 1950-1951 was \$165,841.91.<sup>102</sup>

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## FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 9

(Unless otherwise noted dates refer to the *Unadilla Times* articles of the year as given by first article of series.)

1. *Thunder Out of China*, by Theodore H. White and Annalee Jacobi. Published by William Sloan Associates, Inc., 1946, pp.13-14 of introduction.
2. *Minutes of the Corporation from 1828, Village of Unadilla*.
3. Charles C. Flaesch, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 2, p. 290.
4. *Unadilla Times*, January 5, 1940.
5. May 17.
6. January 23, 1942.

7. January 19, 1940.
8. May 24.
9. May 24.
10. April 12.
11. April 18.
12. May 23, 1941.
13. June 20, 1941 and November 7, 1941.
14. May 9, 1941.
15. Yale Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 10, pp. 78 and 90.
16. *Unadilla Times*, July 4, 1941.
17. July 14.
18. July 18.
19. August 1.
20. August 29.
21. October 17, 1941.
22. October 17, "Know Your Unadilla."
23. December 19, "Know Your Unadilla."
24. Yale Lyon, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 10, p. 114.
25. *Ibid.*, p. 132.
26. *Ibid.*, p. 134.
27. *Ibid.*, p. 117.
28. Charles C. Flaesch, *Scrapbook*, Vol. 2, page not given; *Unadilla Times*, November 26 and June 18, 1942.
29. July 24, 1942.
30. October 30.
31. August 21.
32. October 2.
33. November 6.
34. December 4.
35. December 11.
36. January 15, 1943.
37. May 15, October 8, December 3.
38. September 17 and October 22.
39. October 1.
40. May 15.
41. July 2.
42. October 15.
43. February 26.
44. March 26.
45. April 23.
46. January 14, 1944.
47. March 31.
48. May 5.
49. February 4.
50. March 17.
51. July 14.
52. July 14.
53. June 9.
54. June 16 and July 7.
55. November 17 and December 22.
56. October 20.
57. October 6.
58. May 12.
59. May 12.
60. March 31.
61. February 22, 1946.
62. February 22.
63. January 11.

64. April 12.
65. May 10.
66. June 7.
67. June 14.
68. August 30.
69. May 3.
70. April 12.
71. September 6.
72. March 8.
73. December 10, 1948, "Unadilla Relates Interesting Facts About Early Currency."
74. August 27, 1948.
75. June 8, 1945.
76. June 1.
77. March 16.
78. January 26.
79. January 26 and July 6.
80. January 27, 1947.
81. January 10.
82. December 5.
83. November 14.
84. April 25.
85. February 14.
86. January 2, 1948.
87. February 6.
88. February 27.
89. April 9.
90. June 4 and May 28.
91. June 11.
92. June 18.
93. July 23.
94. September 16, 1949.
95. October 28.
96. October 18, 1940, "The Old Brick Store Uptown" by Curtis Chase.
97. January 6, 1950.
98. June 16.
99. April 7.
100. July 21.
101. July 14 and July 21.
102. July 7.



## CHAPTER TEN

### Reminiscences

IT seems to be a very human characteristic to live somewhat in the past and particularly as old age comes creeping on us then there are many reminiscences of the happenings and occurrences of the days in the distant past. It seems to stand out very clearly in our minds, because of the fact that our committee and their research in the history of Unadilla has encountered so many instances of this, that we have set apart a chapter to include many of these reminiscences and tales of some families, which we think will be of interest and may also recall in your mind some of the days that have passed in the splendid history of our Village Beautiful.

Mr. F. H. Meeker who has been mentioned several times in these chapters, has been of great assistance to your committee and in one evening which was very profitably spent in his home with his wife, who has also made a splendid contribution to our book, and with Mr. Marvin Teed, these are some of the reminiscences that we wish to record.

Mr. Meeker who was connected indirectly with the Hanford Wagon Works and acted as manager approximately 1885-1890, tells of the cavalcades of wagons which were made at the Hanford Wagon Works. It was a good wagon, with a fine reputation. They also made a cutter and a two seated sleigh and the prices ranged at that time from \$60.00 to \$75.00 for a buggy with a top from \$125.00 to \$150.00 for the sleigh to \$185.00 for the Glen Falls Buck Board a two-seated wagon with a peculiar spring with a rocking motion that was very much in demand, even at this rather high price. After the wagons had been prepared and were ready for shipment there were many times cavalcades at least a mile long of these new, bright, shiny wagons which were being started off for delivery.

Mr. Meeker tells also of the careful work of finishing, where several coats of paint were put on after the first rough coat was applied and that had dried, then soap stones were used

to rub, always in one direction, and three or four coats were applied to give the body for the last color coat, usually black, which shimmered and had a fine gloss, but not a shine to it. It was a wonderfully fine job of finishing and these were very good wagons.

Mr. Meeker recalls that he had ridden in a boat from Martin Brook to Clifton Street back in the times when Martin Brook overflowed its banks so regularly at flood times, and also recalls that the middle of Main Street was deep in mud, as many of us remember. He recalls that the youngsters used to roll up their breeches, to their body, and dash down the mud of Main Street. It was during the time of the office of Mr. Jerome Seacord, Village President, that the streets were graded. Mr. Meeker is also the authority for the statement that a Mr. Winchester operated a place, near where the Masonic Temple now stands, and made artificial teeth there. This was a venture in which Mr. J. Fred Sands was interested.

Mr. Meeker has in his possession a newspaper *Home and Abroad*, Vol. 3, No. 19, published in Unadilla, October 25, 1872 G. A. Dodge, editor and proprietor in which is recorded the nomination of Horace Greeley as candidate for Presidency of the United States on the Democratic ticket. A Mr. Lewis Carmichael was involved in the nomination of Greeley. Carmichael was a very picturesque man who lived in this village. He was land-poor as it is recorded that he owned at one time most of the land between Unadilla and Unadilla Center. He lived in an old sawmill and Col. North with Major Fellows, both famous and prominent citizens of our community were helpful to him in many ways. He died in Sidney and is buried in Chestnut Hill Cemetery.

Oliver Buckley owned at one time the F. T. Sherman property at the upper end of Main Street next to the river. He sold dictionaries and encyclopedias and was apt to use very fluent language. Instead of saying "Unhitch your horse, put him in the barn and feed him," he would say, "Detach the quadruped from the vehicle, and conduct him to the place of shelter that he may partake of his sustenance."

Mr. Meeker recalls that the weather vane on the brewery, now Chambers Sales Stable was very appropriately two whiskey

barrels. He remembers the Sewell family. Mr. William H. Sewell, who was a wheelright and had a foundry here for over twenty five years. Judge Sewell of Walton was his son and another son was a Lt. in the navy and the first Governor of Guam. There is a lovely circular stairway handcarved in the old Sewell home near the York plant (the Canfield Condensery).

Did you ever hear of a "calathumpian" or "phuseyleayr"? \* Some of the old hand bills and posters that are to be seen in museums, one of which is in the possession of Charles Oles, I believe, tell of these terms in connection with their celebrations. Mr. Meeker recalls them as platforms eight or ten feet square built on a platform wagon, with actors made up to represent local people and to take off some local skit, as they are drawn along in a parade celebration.

Like most of us he remembers some of the mischief that the small boys got into then with putty guns. They would drill a small hole in a glass in a window and then at a safe place from inside the window, they would project little balls of putty with these guns to the discomfort of passing pedestrians. He recalls also when Cone and Oles had a Hardware Store (upper Main St.) and upstairs in this same building was a tin shop and also a tailor who was lame. Frank Arnold at one time decided to play a trick on this tailor and bolted or screwed his carpet slippers to the floor. The tailor being in the habit of sitting cross-legged on the table with his slippers on the floor, after he got into his slippers, of course, he could not control himself and fell. Suspecting the young men for their hilarity at the time, he chased the boys and finally caught them, succeeded in getting them down on the floor and then with a needle, which he used in his sewing his lapel, he proceeded to prod them properly. The boys did not play that trick on him again. These are but a few of the happenings that he remembers out of his long and full life and experience in Unadilla.

Several very interesting reminiscences have come to the

\*("Phuseyleayr" This spelling from a hand bill in possession of Mr. Charles Oles describing the 85th celebration of Independence in 1861 Unadilla).



Committee which are given as follows: The first of these is from Galen DeForest.

The DeForest family were early settlers in this part of the country and lived originally in the vicinity of Rogers Hollow. Several of the ancestors are buried in the Rogers Hollow Cemetery and an interesting article by Clarinda Sturges was given several years ago at one of the DeForest family reunions.

She recalls the many hardships which the early settlers in this section encountered. The DeForests came from Conn. as early as 1797, the husband first followed by the wife and three small children and soon a log cabin with a bark roof was set up in the forest near Unadilla. The only inhabitants of the wild country were Indians, wild animals and only one house in Unadilla, a Mr. and Mrs. Walters. A ferry ran up and down the Susquehanna according to the story, and Mr. DeForest working on the ferry bringing supplies, would leave his family for a week at a time or longer as he made these trips, walking back and forth to the river. Mrs. DeForest was not afraid and it is recorded that "she was a fine Christian woman" trusting in God who guarded and protected her family.

One Thursday she had put the last bit of food that she possessed (a johnny cake) in the oven, when an Indian armed with a long knife and other weapons, came to her door asking for food. While the children fearfully clung to her skirts she pulled the johnny cake from the oven and gave it to the Indian, who said, "Me won't hurt paleface," and told her that on a stone nearby he would leave her a quarter of venison. This she found and it was the only food the family had until Saturday when her husband returned bringing a sack of ground corn from Wattles mill.

One day while following a trail or marked trees, a panther followed Mr. DeForest and he said they eyed each other up and down, but each went his way. Mrs. Sturgess recalls that there was an Indian password known by Mr. DeForest that saved his life on one occasion.

After living alone in the wilderness some time Mrs. Walters persuaded them to come to Unadilla and the only two white women cried for joy for they were the first white people they had seen for a year. When more settlers came the DeForests

returned to their old home at Rogers Hollow. There were now eight children in the family. Lyman, Mason, George, Myer, Eber, Sylvester, Abel and Sarah Ann. Abel died August 23, 1828 at the age of 68 and is buried in the Rogers Hollow Cemetery. He was a member of the assembly in 1819, 1813 and 1814 and as late as 1890 there was said to be fifty-eight persons named DeForest living in the town.

George also mentioned died March 7, 1835 when seventy-three years of age and has an interesting epitaph in the Rogers Hollow Cemetery.

An Honest man here lies at rest  
As our God with his image of blest  
The friend of man, the friend of truth  
The friend of age to amid of youth  
Few hearts like his with nature warmed  
Few hearts with knowledge so informed  
If there is another world he lives in bliss  
If there is none, he made the best of this.

Rogers Hollow is apparently named from the Peter Rogers who with the DeForests and Morefields came to this section of the country at an early date. Present DeForests of this family from the same generation would include Galen DeForest, Anna Quimby, Ida Sowles (now deceased 1954), and Geneva Gaylord, the latter residing at West Oneonta, Edna Talcott and sister Bessie Talcott of Sidney, N. Y.

Mention has been made several times of Mrs. Meeker's contribution to our historical work. She was a Hughston and she has prepared very interestingly, a little sketch on one of the Ouleout Pioneers, James Hughston. The old stone house about a mile from the covered bridge on the left hand side of the Franklin Road was the early home of the Hughstons and this article on James Hughston follows:

James Hughston from Lebanon, Conn. was one of the Ouleout Pioneers. Together with his cousin, Nathaniel Wattles, he came here in 1794, when both young men were twenty-three years of age. Sluman Wattles, their uncle had arrived ten years before—right after the close of the Revolutionary war in 1784, because he and four men named Harper, had an interest together in lands purchased from the Indians before the war.

Evidently, according to the records James Hughston and his bride settled on a farm and lived in a log house, near the covered bridge where it crosses the Ouleout just above its mouth, while Nathaniel started a hotel close to the river and operated a Ferry for crossing the river, about where the bridge now stands.

The fact that James Hughston, Sluman and Nathaniel Wattles and Timothy Beach always lived on that side of the Susquehanna, and were Ouleout Pioneers, does not alter the fact that they lived in Otsego County and are included in Unadilla history. For Delaware County taken from Otsego and Webster Counties, was not formed until the year 1797. So these Ouleout Pioneers were actually "Pioneers of Unadilla," as Mr. Halsey calls them in the title of his book (*The Old New York Frontier*, by Halsey, page 394).

James Hughston Esq. (as it is inscribed on his tombstone in St. Matthew's Cemetery) served as magistrate in Sidney for about forty years. He was also supervisor for several terms and was once elected to the legislature. Born in 1772 he was obviously too young to have served in the Revolutionary war.

Two of his sons, buried in St. Matthew's, served in the Civil War. Nathaniel was Colonel of the First Chenango County Rifle Regt. New York. Robert was Colonel of the 144th Regt. N.Y.S.V. Jonas, a third son was a member of Congress in 1855-56. He was appointed to China by President Abraham Lincoln in 1861.

It was only two years ago, when I was in Tucson, Arizona that I heard the details of the dramatic story—related to me by Mary Hughston, granddaughter of Jonas Hughston. She had in her possession a copy of the diary kept by Mrs. Jonas, during her trip to China.

She explained that while in Congress, her husband became firm friends with Lincoln, who was then in Congress from Illinois. That when Lincoln was elected President and after his inauguration in March 1861 he appointed Jonas Minister to China. (Not United States Marshall, as is wrongly recorded in *The Old New York Frontier*.)

As soon as possible after his appointment, he departed in a Clipper ship for Shanghai, after having made arrangements for



his wife and their 3 children (9 to 14 years of age), to follow him later. Every month that passed after Lincoln became President, was plunging the country deeper into the impending Civil War. President Buchanan had done nothing at all to safeguard England and France's loyalty to the Union. In fact they were in favor of a dis-union and began actively and immediately to run the blockade the government had provided in defense.

It was this situation that Mrs. Jonas and her children faced as they set off from America on a memorable and dangerous trip to China to join her husband. She embarked on a sailing vessel.

As bad as it looked at the first of the voyage, it did not look half as bad as it was going to be. Instead of sailing directly, they went all the way around Cape Horn. Chased by English and French ships, becalmed for weeks at the equator, deluged on deck with violent wind and rain storms that would have swept the children into the sea had they not been tied to the railing, a foot of water on the floor of their stateroom with everything movable drifting about, the wardrobe she had provided as suitable for their station in the capital—all ruined in the trunks in the hold; a mutiny among the sailors, sickness from poor food and above all—not one line from her husband or from America during the endless 6 months voyage. Again and again in the diary she notes praying for strength to live and get to her husband.

When at last they dropped anchor in the harbor at Shanghai, they were not met by her husband but by a young man from the embassy. Bewildered and instinctively frightened her fears were realized when she was gently informed that her husband had died and been buried about 3 months.

Mrs. Jonas stayed in Shanghai for such time as it took to have arrangements taken to get her back to America. This time the first half of the journey was about like it had been in coming. Again she kept a diary and being the only woman on the ship she appreciated the consideration shown her by the captain in keeping her in all possible seclusion. Stopping at the California coast, several weeks were spent there and the final

half of her journey back to New York was made in a war ship—delegated to bring her safely into port.

All of these clouds eventually had a silver lining. After her return Mrs. Jonas was married to a Mr. Birdsall, a widower with 6 or 7 children, a man of wealth. They lived luxuriously in New York City and in Paris. Her daughter Kittie married one of the Birdsall boys. Her daughter Anne was my father's favorite cousin. So when I came along I was named for her.

My grandfather was William J. son of James, and he lived in the old stone house on Franklin road. When he died it went to my 2 Aunts. Eventually they sold it, after being in the family for about 100 years.

Anne Kathleen Hughston Meeker

On August 14, 1951, we had a very interesting story on the Miller family. This was given to us by the late Frederick S. Miller of Rochester, N. Y. The Millers were one of the original families coming into this territory. They settled just across the Unadilla river in Chenango County, but have always been connected in the history of Unadilla and had lived in the same house ever since they settled there. More recently since Mr. Miller's tragic death the farm has been sold and the new owners are operating the Tall Pines Restaurant after extensive remodeling. We have felt that this reminiscence of this important family was of interest and we list it below.

We are one of the original families, owning and living in the same home. My grandfather, Matthew Miller moved here from Glastonbury, Conn. in 1819 by ox-team. He was accompanied by his brother-in-law, Adnah Talcott. They were attracted by this beautiful Unadilla River and pitched their tent on the site which the present house now stands. They said they shot a deer that jumped from a thicket and could catch all the fish they wanted on bent pins.

There were only 10 acres of land there cleared, which the Indians had prepared for corn. The rest was all forest. They told many thrilling stories of encounters with the Indians as they cut and burned trees to clear the land. They gave to my grandfather a quitclaim deed for a township (640 acres) which by a later survey proved to be a 1000. This he divided equally with Adnah Talcott and each reared large families.

My 7 children and 17 grandchildren who live and enjoy this ancestral home, all are descendants of William Miller who came to Northampton, Massachusetts from England in 1638. Our children are the 10th generation to bear the name.

One year after building the house here, they built the little church next door. Grandfather gave the land and contributed towards the building. There were about 40 subscribers towards it. The gifts included such items as days work, lumber, hard ware, a pair of boots. I found the original subscription paper in his desk. It is framed and hangs in the church.

He also helped build and financed a tannery one mile up the Guilford Creek, and a large grist and sawmill at East Guilford now both in ruins.

My sister, Blanche attended the Unadilla High School, but I went to Sidney and was one of the two first graduates in 1889.

Rev. Yale Lyon, Editor Arthur Bird (Sidney), and I were asked to give historical talks at the dedication of the monument at the junction of the Susquehanna and Unadilla Rivers, the site of which I am told was where the town of Unadilla was first located until high waters made them move to the present location. The monument was erected to mark the routes of General John Sullivan and General James Clinton and their armies in 1779.

As Yale Lyon and I had both prepared our remarks from Redpath's History and he spoke first, he didn't leave much for me to say. It was an extremely hot day, so I wished them all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If my grandfather could come back again and see the modern machinery used in working the farm as compared with his, he might have said, what I heard blacksmith Horace Newton say when he heard his son speak over the first telephone from Norwich about 1874, "I guess man's ingenuity may get the start of God Almighty."

Mention has already been made of the scrapbooks of the late Charles C. Flaesch. There were two anecdotes recorded that may be of some interest. The first has to do with a big apple tree which was at the Makley property, the first house below the Methodist Church on Main St. once owned and



occupied by Robert Armstrong now by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Jacob and also an item of transferring a wife for a valise. We list below the article as it appeared in Mr. Flaesch's scrapbook.

Charles C. Flaesch—*Scrapbook*, Vol, No. 1, Page 15

### UNADILLA'S BIG APPLE TREE

I saw in yesterday's world that Georgia thought probably Greensboro had the largest apple tree in the United States. In our back yard is an apple tree that measures in circumference at its base 12 feet and 2 inches. I don't know how old it is but it's a good deal over 100 years old and still bearing a big crop of apples.

Lizzie White Makley

*Unadilla Times*—March 28

### WIFE FOR VALISE

What do you think of buying and selling a wife for a valise? Below is a letter-perfect reproduction of an instrument not duly executed, but on the date given :

Unadilla—August 20, 1904

Otsego Co., N.Y.

David E. Hadsell

I this day sold my wife to Isaac V. Lake fore a vorlease [sic] in the presence of Mr. Page and his wife and further more I agree not to bother said David E. Hadsell in no way what ever and he is not to bother me in no way shape or manner.

David E. Hadsell

Annie Hadsell

Isaac V. Lake Witness

Mrs. C. E. Page

Joseph Page

A bit of poetry may be of interest. Here is one entitled WHERE'S UNADILLA? from Mr. Charles Flaesch's scrapbook.

Out where the skies are a trifle bluer,

Out where friendship's little truer,

That's Unadilla.

Out where the sun is always shining,

Where fewer hearts in despair are pining,

That's Unadilla.

Where there's more of singing and less of sighing,

Where there's more of giving and less of buying ;  
And one makes friends without half trying  
"God's Country" Unadilla.

And a poem entitled THE SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL by Andrew B. Saxton, Editor of the Oneonta, New York, *Herald*. We quote only the verse which has to do with the mention of Unadilla, although there are 19 verses of the poem.

And past Otsego's sluggish tide,  
The rushing flood of Ouleout,  
And Unadilla, far and wide  
Its ashes scattered round about.  
Was there not one whose firmer hand  
Held wanton warfare in duress  
Enough to save from torch and brand  
The lone house in the wilderness?

All one needs to do in compiling a local history is to visit with many of the old timers, and listen to these tales of the past from interesting observations.

It was not like that in olden days  
That have passed beyond recall,  
In the rare old, fair old, golden days  
It was not like that at all—  
Then we all did, just as we ought to do  
Or if not we never told  
I sigh in vain to live again  
In the days of old.

poem by Flora Fabelle (Mrs. Raymond Hitchcook) from Hemet, California.

Mrs. George N. Griswold now residing at 31 Alps Road, Mountain View, N. J., has sent some interesting data. Stephen Benton born in Sheffield, Mass. in 1774, came to Unadilla in 1808. At that time forests covered the section and he bought some of his land from the Indians living near the town.

Christopher Dutcher Fellows came to Unadilla at the age of 14 in 1816 and went to work for Mr. Benton. He later became a partner in the lumber business and married Mr. Benton's daughter. White pine manufactured in this section was shipped to Philadelphia.

Mr. Benton built a log cabin on the site of the present house, known as "Maple Home." The cabin was struck by lightning and burned, then the present home was built, now owned by the Topliffs. Mr. Benton returned to Philadelphia to look after his lumber interest and the partnership here with Major Fellows was dissolved. Major Fellows, who obtained this rank from the State Militia, was known for his many acts of kindness and charity, and was one of the "solid men" of Otsego County. He served two terms in the Assembly of the State and was a devoted Democrat all his life. He with his son-in-law operated a general store in the Fellows Block for many years. Fellows Street bears his name, and he gave the site for the Presbyterian Church. He was 93 when he died. When the new road on the other side of the river was opened, called the "dug road" he was very much interested and contributed men and teams to help with the work.

Two children were born to Major and Mrs. Fellows, Elizabeth and George. They were both born in Maple Home, as was Caroline (Mrs. Griswold) daughter of Mrs. Milo B. Gregory (Elizabeth). George Fellows was at one time editor of the *Unadilla Times*, and worked with the State Agricultural Department.

Mrs. Gregory closes her note with this statement. "It has been said that those with no respect for their ancestors will have nothing worthy to transmit to their descendants. No past that is worth anything can be called dead. We look backward only to go forward with greater hope and courage."

In the cultural seminars recently conducted by the New York State Historical Society at Fenimore House, Cooperstown, N.Y., July 5-11, 1953, much emphasis was put on Folklore. Folk songs were called the history of the air and it was suggested that where there are gaps in factual information that the folklorist first appears with a tale to fill the gap. There is however much of merit in the tall tale, the reminiscence and the story of the old resident. History itself has been kept alive by the story teller of the past, before the printed word and we owe much to the poets and bards of yesteryears. History is the entire experience of a people.

Did you ever hear of "shoeing a goose?" Up the Catskill



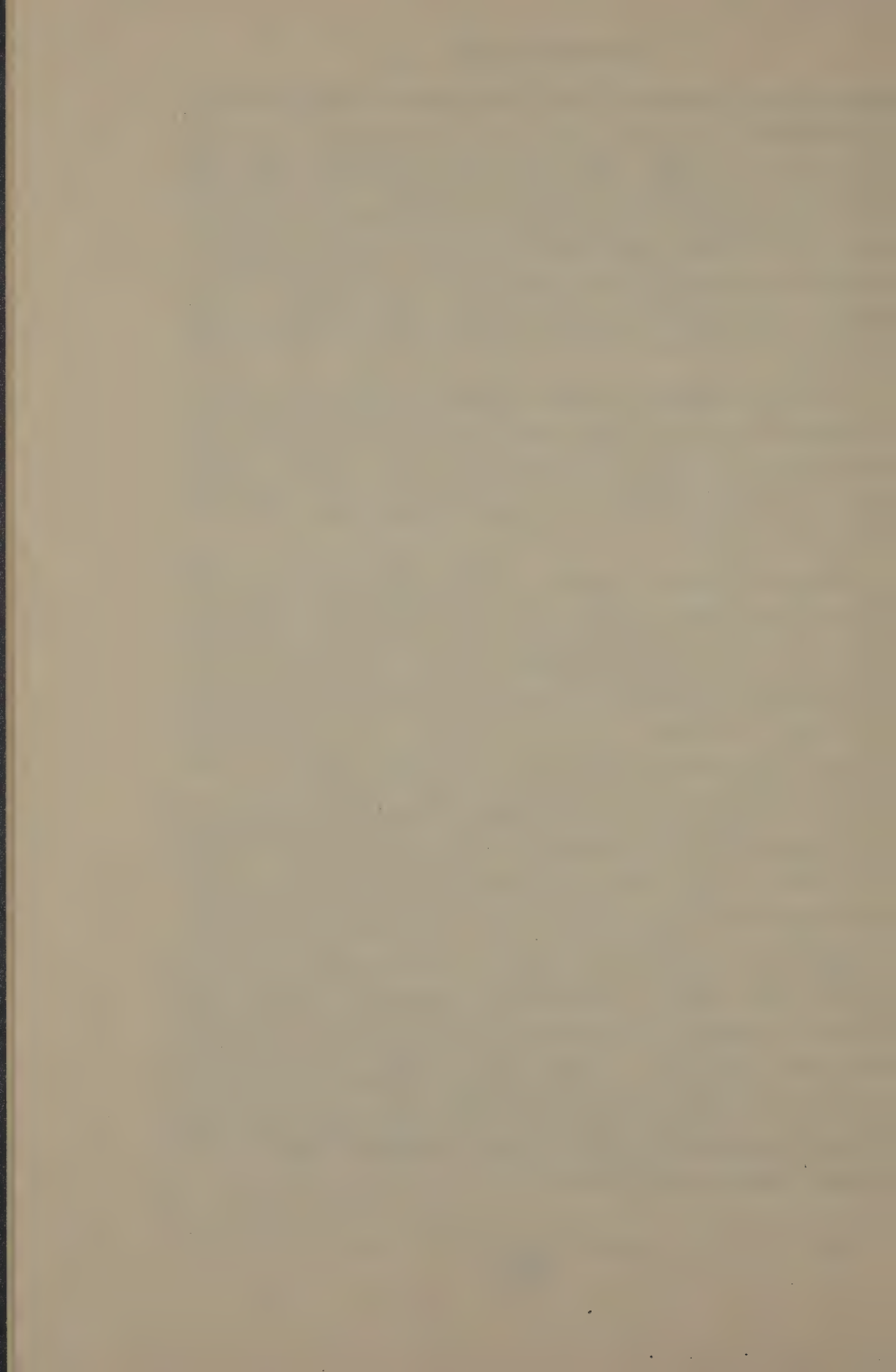
turnpike near Treadwell, N.Y., there is a sand bank known as "goose bank."

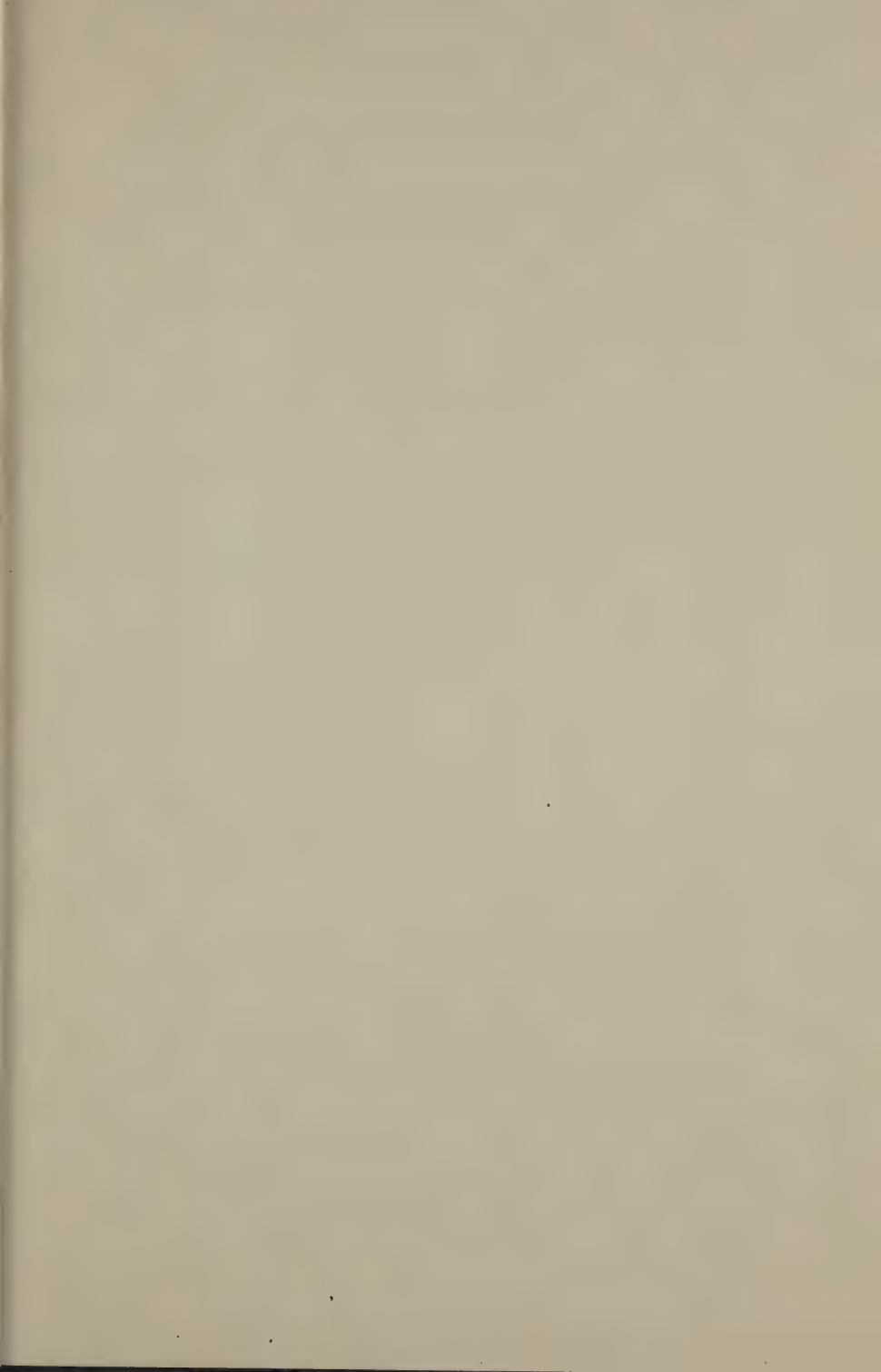
The live stock of that day were driven to market. It was hard on the feet so the feet of the geese were tarred. They were then driven through the sand bank and a heavy coating of sand adhered to the tar and to the feet of the goose forming a protective coating or shoe for a long march to market. So now you know how to "shoe a goose."—This was from a talk by Mrs. Lynn Finch of the Ouleout Historical Society before Rotary, May 27, 1953.

Speaking of toll rates it was commonly understood that no toll would be charged if the traveler could prove that he was on his way to church or to the gristmill. This was particularly true of those residents who lived just across the river in Crookerville. A phrase "to mill or meeting" comes down from this common usage.

Along the Catskill turnpike were numerous taverns or inns. One of these, Bumps Tavern near East Windham, N.Y., said to be a "favorite stopping place" has recently been purchased by the New York State Historical Society and moved in 1953 to the Farmers Museum "to become an important feature in the village crossroads." This will preserve the early traditions of hospitality and will keep alive the famous roadway, so influential in the growth and development of Unadilla.

So we bring to an end these pages of *The Village Beautiful*. Years come and go and make their mark upon the village and its citizens. It has been a thrilling experience to do some research and reading, to share with the members of the Rotary Committee, and with all those who have cooperated so generously the inspiration of recalling the interesting events in the last half century. We hope that some will continue their interest in historical matters, scrapbooks, files of community events and records, so that future historians may benefit, as we have, by the wisdom and foresight of those who have gone before us. We have a wonderful heritage from the past—let us continue to make Unadilla a Village Beautiful through Service Above Self, the aim of Rotary.









To add to the pleasure and reading ease of "The Village Beautiful", Unadilla Rotary has prepared this index. It is our hope that this Bicentennial project will enhance the value of the 1957 publication as a reference book. The assistance of those who cooperated in this project is hereby acknowledged with gratitude. Especial appreciation is extended to Mrs. Celeste Cerra for her extensive stenographical assistance in the preparation of this Index.

John F. Van Cott  
for Unadilla Rotary 1976

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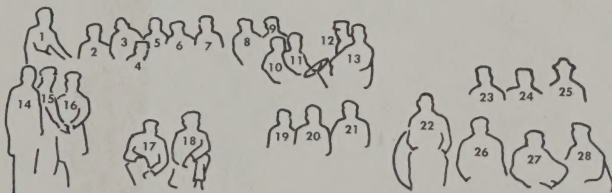
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# ERRATA

## Page

- |    |  |     |   |
|----|--|-----|---|
| 26 | David Hanford not <u>Hauford</u>   | 118 | Huntington's not <u>Hungerford's</u>                          |
| 31 | Ira Moore not <u>Moors</u>   | 125 | Kenneth Aitken not <u>Atkin</u>                               |
|    | Edwin R. Chamberlain not <u>Chamberlin</u>   |     | Lewis Sturgess not <u>Louis</u>                               |
|    | Mae Topliff not <u>Nap</u>   |     | Fred Cramer not <u>Kramer</u>                                 |
| 52 | fourteen not <u>four</u> years later   | 130 | Nestles not <u>Nestle</u>                                     |
| 62 | In the school year 1935-36 the new school was first occupied, the cornerstone having been laid September 15, 1934.   | 131 | Note corrected list of those with 1921 fire engine - Plate 10 |
| 71 | Ireland not <u>Irland</u>  | 142 | Oulecut not <u>Ouelot</u>                                     |
| 73 | Earl Root not <u>Rook</u>  | 150 | Porter not <u>Forster</u>                                     |
| 78 | Seaman, Edward R. not <u>Deaman</u>  | 155 | Dr. Donald McKown   |
|    | Tyson, Harold not <u>Herold</u>  |     | LaMont Faigle not <u>Frank Favreau</u>                        |
| 83 | Minerva Hayes not <u>Haynes</u>  | 164 | Rev. Stanley V. Todd not <u>Tood</u>                          |
| 85 | Roy Bell not <u>Harold</u>   | 172 | Mrs. not <u>Mr.</u> Jerome S. Seacord                         |
| 86 | Carlton Pomeroy not <u>Carol</u>   | 184 | Morris not <u>Norris</u>                                      |
| 91 | Halfway House here mentioned as being destroyed by fire, was on the 1976 site of Spencer Milk Co. Inc. Mrs. Harriet Luther lived in the house presently occupied by Mrs. Edwin Carr. This second "old landmark" was not destroyed as reported. | 194 | Judge Page not <u>Paige</u>                                   |
|    |  | 203 | Corgan not <u>Corigan</u> (also page 204)                     |
|    |  | 204 | Three Chappell listings are all Robert Arwin Chappell         |
|    |  |     | Roger Chamberlain not <u>Chamberlin</u>                       |
| 93 | Harry D. Arbuckle not <u>Arbuskle</u>  | 205 | MacArthur, John J. not <u>McArthur</u>                        |
|    | William D. Hanford not <u>Handford</u>   | 210 | Kochendorfer not <u>Wochendorfer</u>                          |
|    |  | 211 | Aitken not <u>Atken</u>                                       |
|    |  | 218 | Edward A. Groves not <u>Edward S.</u>                         |
|    |  | 245 | Cones & Bolles not <u>Oles</u>                                |



Corrected listing of firemen shown in Plate 10

- |                   |                    |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1-Orrin Pickett   | 11-Byron Wyman     | 21-George Whitaker  |
| 2-Willis C. Boyd  | 12-Cornie C. Moore | 22-Arthur Ostrander |
| 3-Will Southworth | 13-John Vroman     | 23-Fred Parsons     |
| 4-Wesley Wilber   | 14-David Crandall  | 24-Bert Judson      |
| 5-Willis Haynes   | 15-Everest Smith   | 25-Rev. Yale Lyon   |
| 6-Carey Huftalen  | 16-Harry Brion     | 26-Jay Wilber       |
| 7-James Ingraham  | 17-Ed Webler       | 27-Lewis Welcher    |
| 8-Lester Boynton  | 18-Del Wilsey      | 28-Ezra Judd        |
| 9-Harry Boomhower | 19-Halsey Dibble   |                     |
| 10-Ora Fisk       | 20-Herbert Strait  |                     |





